BRANCH
COUNTY

MICHIGAN

STORAGE
91233

COLLIN







A. P. Collin

A TWENTIETH CENTURY

History and Biographical Record

OF

BRANCH COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

REV. HENRY P. COLLIN, M. A.
AUTHOR AND EDITOR.

ILLUSTRATED.

THE LEWIS PUBLISHING COMPANY
NEW YORK :: CHICAGO
1906

ئەم پەرتووکە
بەشی

PREFACE.

The purpose of a preface is generally only to supplement the introductory chapters. In the introductory chapter of this book the aim and character of it as planned in the minds of the makers were set forth.

The editor and publishers have done their best to make their work what they promised it should be, and they have given no small amount of labor and money to realize their plans. The editor believes that the volume fairly fulfills the promises made, and approximates the ideal of a twentieth century history and biographical record. It is thought that the work will be one of value and interest to all former, present and future residents of the county of Branch.

In the execution of every work, however, men find themselves subject always to certain limitations of space, time and ability. Generally no one becomes so conscious of how much more might have been done in the doing of any work, and how much better it might have been done, than he who has gone through with it. The editor is very sure that no one will see as much that seems to be omitted, or so much lack of due proportion as he. But at the same time he feels that he may reasonably assume that no one can judge as well what to omit where much must be omitted, as one who has gone over the entire field, and has seen the variety of subjects and the immense amount of matter contained within it.

The writer of a local history is necessarily dependent to a large degree upon other persons for material and for co-operation. It is a pleasure for the editor to record here, on the one hand, the kindly willingness of the people of the county to furnish material, and, on the other hand, the generous co-operation of the publishers in affording ways and means to bring the material together and to assist in putting into form. In this mention of co-operation on the part of the publishers, special acknowledgment must be made of the assistance rendered by the general historian of The Lewis Publishing Company. To him credit must be given for a large part of the work of preparing the general history for the press, in the gathering of material, in working out the details of arrangement, and also in the actual composition of copy.

It is proper as a matter of historical record that mention be made of those to whom the editor has been specially indebted for information and assistance. The most fruitful sources of historical data are, of course, the county papers. Mr. Charles H. Newell, the proprietor of the Coldwater *Courier,* has a file of county papers in the *Courier* office, of earlier date and more nearly continuous than any other file or collection in the county. Mr.

Newell has given us free access to these files, which begin with 1841. The like courtesy has been shown us by Mr. Horace Kitchel of *The Reporter,* Mr. John S. Evans of *The Sun* and *The Star,* in Coldwater, by Mr. C. W. Owen of the Quincy *Herald,* Mr. C. H. Young of the Quincy *News,* Mr. A. D. Shaffmaster of the Bronson *Journal,* Mr. Will L. Robinson of the Union City *Register-Weekly,* and Mr. Easton of the Sherwood *Register.*

The official records of the county officers in the court house are in some respects more valuable than newspaper files. To Mr. Henry E. Straight, county clerk, Mr. Charles F. Carpenter, register of deeds, Mr. Hiram Bennett, county treasurer, Mr. W. Glenn Cowell, prosecuting attorney, Mr. Charles Hamilton, county surveyor, Mr. James Swain, county commissioner of schools, and Mr. Daniel E. Weage, county drain commissioner, we are indebted, not only for access to records in their charge, but also for favors shown otherwise than as county officials. The officers of the city of Coldwater and of the several villages and townships of the county, have generally been willing to furnish any data desired. To Mr. Calvin J. Thorpe, secretary of the Pioneer Society of Branch County, Mr. Horris Wilson of the Quincy Pioneer Society, and Miss Florence M. Holmes, librarian of the Coldwater Free Public Library, our acknowledgments are due for kindness in furthering our quest for historic facts. It would be impracticable to mention the names of the many men and women in all parts of the county, from whom information has been received that has been incorporated in this volume. To all these the editor, on his own behalf and on that of The Lewis Publishing Company as well, takes this opportunity to express sincere thanks.

It is proper that we further mention that Mr. Fred G. Wahl, Mr. Henry C. Bailey and Mr. Tom L. Robinson have assisted in writing up some of the subjects of the general history. Mrs. Jennie C. Donley of Coldwater took the photographic views from which nearly all the illustrations in the history have been made.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

The County as a Subject of History..... 1

CHAPTER II.

The Creation and Survey of the County..... 6

CHAPTER III.

Topographical Features of Branch County—The Drainage System.. 16

CHAPTER IV.

The Indians and the Early Settlers' Life With Them..... 24

CHAPTER V.

Number, Nature and Distribution of the County's People..... 28

CHAPTER VI.

Routes of Immigration..... 33

CHAPTER VII.

Formation of Townships..... 38

CHAPTER VIII.

Settlement and Beginnings..... 41

CHAPTER IX.

Settlement and Beginnings (Continued)..... 49

CHAPTER X.

County Seat Contest..... 60

CHAPTER XI.

Settlement and Beginnings (Continued)..... 65

CHAPTER XII.

Settlement and Beginnings (Continued)..... 78

CHAPTER XIII.

The City of Coldwater..... 93

CHAPTER XIV.

Branch County's Villages..... 98

CHAPTER XV.
The Agricultural Industry—The Grange 108
CHAPTER XVI.
Manufacturing in Branch County 116
CHAPTER XVII.
Branch County's Banks and Finance 124
CHAPTER XVIII.
Railroads, Transportation and Communication 129
CHAPTER XIX.
The County's Newspapers 138
CHAPTER XX.
Education 148
CHAPTER XXI.
Education (Continued) 157
CHAPTER XXII.
The State Public School—Branch County Infirmary 175
CHAPTER XXIII.
Libraries—Activity in Literature, Music, Art 181
CHAPTER XXIV.
Religion and Church Organizations 190
CHAPTER XXV.
Political History of Branch County 210
CHAPTER XXVI.
Courts and Lawyers 214
CHAPTER XXVII.
The Medical Profession 221
CHAPTER XXVIII.
Fraternities and Clubs 227
CHAPTER XXIX.
The Pioneer Society—Pioneer Record 238
CHAPTER XXX.
The County in the Country's Wars 256
Lists of County, Township and Village Officials 297

INDEX.

Abel, Moses T.—768.
Adams, Wales.—quoted, 42; sawmill, 43; 210.
Adolph, Willard.—828.
Agriculture.—108-113; effects of drainage, 20 et seq.
Agricultural Society.—Branch county, 115.
Air Line R. R.—132; 78; 98.
Aldrich, Abram.—75; 80.
Aldrich, Abram J.—141; 143; 186; 674.
Algansee township.—39; settlement of, 87-88; officials of, 300.
Alger, Isaac P.—94; 223.
Allen, Alonzo B.—374.
Allen, D. C. & Co.—96.
Alumni—of Coldwater High School, 160-164; of Quincy High School, 165-167; of Union City High School, 169-171; of Bronson High School, 172-173; of Sherwood High School, 174.
Ancient Order of United Workmen—228; 230.
Anderson, J. H.—829.
Anderson, Mrs. Hattie.—516.
Andrews, William L.—188.
Andrus, Nelson H.—512.
Ann Arbor convention.—13.
Arnold, Samuel—73; Arnold's Corners, 73.
Art—Activity in, 184.
Austin, Edmund.—473.
Automobiles.—136.

Bailey, H. F.—141.
Bailey, Willis C.—143; 144; 186.
Baker, Joshua.—85.
Baldwin, Newton.—224.
Ball Bros.—96.
Banford, J. J.—852.
Banking and Finance.—124-128.
Baptist churches—196 et seq.; at Coldwater, 196; Quincy, 197; Algansee, 198; Union City, 198; Bronson, 198; Girard, 199; Kinderhook, 199.
Bar Association of Branch County.—220.
Barber, Julius S.—94; 125; 335.
Barlow, Henry H.—218; 579.
Barnes, Walton J.—714.
Barnhart, Martin.—75.
Bassett, John.—41; 47.
Bassett, L. M. & Son.—96.
Batavia township.—39; early settlement, 46; population in 1837, 46; topography, 47; first officials, 48; officials of, 301.
Bater, Samuel.—471.
Bates, Edwin R.—331.
Bates, Julius M.—455.
Battery A.—284-286.
Beech, John H.—223; 450.
Beardsley, Ezra E.—771.
Beers, Calvin.—476.
Belote, John S.—37.
Bennett, Charles W.—145; 187; 390.
Bennett, Hiram.—121.
Bennett, Ida D.—187.
Bennett, Isaac—464.
Bennett, Isaiah W.—79.
Bennett, James K.—83.
Bennie, James.—46; 72; 73.
Benton, C. P.—214; 186; 210.
Berry, Enos G.—67; 101; 221.
Berry, Ezra.—67; 218.
Berry, Joseph.—67; 101.
Berry, Samuel H.—37; 67.
Bethel township.—40; early settlement, 44; early roads, 44; topography, 45; population in 1837, 45; Snow Prairie settlement, 45; first officials, 46; officials of, 303.
Bidelman, Horatio N.—640.
Black Hawk Mill.—51; 53.
Blackman, Edson.—224; 603.
Blackman, J. Morehouse.—626.
Blackwell, George W.—535.
Blake, John R.—491.
Bicycles.—136.
Bingham, Lemuel, blacksmith.—50.
Bolton, A. F.—50; 54.
Booth, family of Gilead.—72.
Bostwick, E. E.—688.
Boundaries—Of Branch county, 1; southern boundary, history of, 11 following; northern boundary of Indiana, 11; northern boundary of Ohio, 12; southern boundary delays statehood for Michigan, 13; survey of southern boundary, when begun, 14; latitude of southern boundary, 14; Harris line, 13; Hendricks line, 14.
Bowen, Jerome.—217.
Bowen, Jerome K.—146.
Bowen, M. S.—218.
Bowen, Willard J.—141; 217.
Bowers, L. M.—625.
Boynton, Stanley W.—458.
Bradley, Howard.—86.
Brainard, E. S. E.—87.

Branch county—Subject of history, 1; created and bounded, 1; population, 2; 28-32; objects of history of, 4; creation and survey of, 6-15; Territorial Act creating, 1, 8; topography, 16-20; drainage, 20-23; Indians of, 24-27.
Branch County Savings Bank.—126.
Branch, J. B.—96; 559.
Branch village—History of, 51-54; laid out by Elisha Warren, 52.
Bray, Byron W.—505.
Brinton, Albert N.—447.
Bronson, Jabe.—3; first settler, 41; 103; 108.
Bronson, original name of Kalamazoo.—103.
Bronson Prairie.—41; settlers in 1830, 42.
Bronson township.—40; first settlement, 41; population in 1837, 44; first schools, 151.
Bronson village.—Nucleus of, 42; history of, 103-106; manufacturing, 116 et seq.; schools, 171 et seq; library, 181; churches, 190 et seq.; officials of, 304.
Brooks, Loren R.—500.
Broughton, John.—68; 101.
Brown, Alvarado.—37.
Brown, Asahel.—87; 432.
Brown, Elisha J.—533.
Brown, J. Wesley.—434.
Buell family—In Union township, 80.
Buell, Geo. W.—101.
Buell, Martin F.—101; 486.
Buell, Perry J.—850.
Burdick, Geo. E.—179; 586.
Burdick, James M.—37; 68.
Burlingame, Joel and Anson.—52.
Burnett, Charles L.—766.
Burnett, Leander S.—548.
Burrows, Arthur.—748.
Burton, George A.—582.
Bushnell, William B.—624.
Business.—Firms at Coldwater, 95-97; at Union City, 100-101; at Quincy, 103; at Bronson, 106.
Butler township.—40; settlement of, 76-77; pioneers, 77; officials, 305.

California township—39; settlement of, 90-92; officials of, 306.
California village.—91-92.
Calkins B. H. & Son. Co.—117.
Calkins, Thomas N.—139.
Campbell, Hugh.—54.
Campbell, Milo D.—56; 219; 386.
Campbell, Oliver C.—212; 844.
Campbell, William J.—706.
Canals—At Union City, 98 (see Erie Canal).
Carey Mission.—25.
Carpenter, Charles F.—328.
Carter, George.—588.
Cary, Samuel H.—48.
Case, Almeron W.—85.
Cement—Manufacturers of, 120-123.
Census Records.—28-32; analysis of census of 1880, 31.
Chain Lake Channel Co.—22.
Champion, Charles U.—822.
Champion, John R.—218; 821.
Chandler, Albert.—94; 96; 140; 184.
Chanute Cement & Clay Product Co., Bronson.—123.
Chapman, Charles W.—811.
Chase, Bishop Philander.—69 et seq.; site of home, 71; 84; 109; 151.
Chase, Enoch.—222.
Chase, H. H.—100.
Chauncey, M. E.—223.
Cherdavoine, Robert.—785.
Chicago Road.—34-36; 129; early condition of, 42; in Coldwater township, 50; and village of Branch, 53; Quincy township, 65.
Chiesman, W. B.—746.
Church, Edwin B.—410.
Churches.—190-209; (see Religion).
Circuit Court Commissioners—List of, 298-299.
Circuit Courts.—214.
Circuit Judges—List of, 297.
Civil War—Soldiers from Branch county in, 258-296.
Clark family—In Bronson, 106.
Clark, Israel W.—79.
Clark, Leonard C.—105.
Clark, Leonard D.—442.
Clark, Oliver J.—676.
Clarke, Edwin R.—Store, 95; library, 95, 183, 735.
Clawson, John.—79.
Clerks—Township, lists of, 300-321.
Clerks—Village, lists of, 321-326.
Cleveland, Augustus A.—875.
Cleveland, George W.—496.
Clizbe, S. H.—224.
Clubs—Woman's, of Coldwater, 188; Twentieth Century, of Coldwater, 188; Fortnightly Musical, 188; New Century, Quincy, 235; Columbian, Quincy, 236; Nika, Quincy, 236; Chautauqua Circle, 236; Woman's, Bronson, 236; Tuesday, Union City, 237.
Coddington, Frederick M.—781.
Coldwater—History of, 93-97; origin of, 54 et seq.; first house, 55; platted by Tibbits and Hanchett, 55; Dr. W. B. Sprague's History of, 56; citizens of 1835, 57; incorporated, 57; contests for county seat, 60 et seq.; schools, 151 et seq.; library, 182-184; churches, 190 et seq.; lawyers, 214-220; physicians, 221-226.
Coldwater Bank.—124.
Coldwater Lake.—16; as a summer resort, 87.
Coldwater Light Guard.—256.
Coldwater National Bank.—125.
Coldwater Prairie.—Why not first settled, 49; early settlers, 54; 109.
Coldwater Portland Cement Co.—123.

Coldwater Public Library.—182-184.
Coldwater River.—18-19.
Coldwater Township.—39; early settlement and growth, 49 et seq.
Cole, Archie W.—541.
Cole, George H.—437.
Collin, Henry P.—878.
"Company A."—257.
Compulsory Education.—156.
Conant, Sarah E.—56; 452.
Congregational Churches.—202 et seq.; at Union City, 202; Algansee, 203; Gilead, 204; Bronson, 204.
Conklin, Charles P.—456.
Conklin, Fred J.—526.
Conover, Charles A.—96, 547.
Conover Engraving & Printing Co.—118.
Conover, Jefferson S.—186, 545.
Conover, William N.—551.
Coombs.—Mills at Coldwater, 59.
Coombs, William A.—621.
Coon Pen.—Name of building used for county and public purposes, 62.
Copeland, Arthur G.—503.
Corbin, Horace A.—100.
Corbus, Family.—In Girard, 74.
Corbus, James G.—36; 65.
Cornish, John.—First settler of Quincy village, 66; his tavern, 67.
Cornwell, Charles T.—414.
Coroners—List of, 299.
Corson, John.—83.
Corwin, L. J.—445.
County Clerks—List of, 297.
County Courts.—214.
County School Commissioners—List of, 298.
County Seat.—First located, 51; at Masonville, 51; at Branch, 52; history of contest, 54; 60-62.
County Treasurers—List of, 298.
Courier, The Coldwater.—141.
Court House.—First in county, 52; located at Coldwater, 61; history of, 62-64; names of building committee, 63.
Courts and Lawyers.—214-220.
Cox, Frank L.—575.
Crater, Andrew.—88.
Crater, Morris.—88.
Crippen, L. D.—37; 94; 124.
Crissy, Hiram.—838.
Cross, Robert J.—54.
Cross, William H.—76.
Culp, John W.—511.
Culver, Abiathar.—83.
Culver, Oliver B.—567.
Cunningham, Daniel S.—224.
Cutter, S. S.—222-223.

Dall, Benedict.—599.
Daniels, Frank M.—577.
Davis, Eber J.—764.
Davis, J. Harlan.—830.
Denham, Horace.—438.
Dexter, Thomas.—799.
Dickey, James E.—711.
Dickey, James R.—382.
Dimond, Isaac M.—79.
Doolittle, Fred W.—330.
Dorrance, Albert A.—96; 426.
Dorrance, A. J.—430.
Doubleday, Hiram.—82.
Doubleday, Harvey M.—356.
Douglas, Charles H.—568.
Douglas, Jenny C.—568.
Drainage System.—20-23; value of, 20; early methods, 20; officials, 21; in different townships, 21-23; in Butler, 76.
Draper, Olney W.—678.
Driggs, Alfred L.—43; builds sawmill, 43.
Dry Prairie.—81.
Dufur, Ira.—796.
Dunkards.—207.
Dunks, F. J.—430.
Dunlap, John.—580.
Dunn, Polly A.—650.
"Dutch Settlement."—89.

East Gilead.—73.
Easton, D. J.—140; 146; 186.
Eaton, Franklin.—474.
Eddy, Mary A.—184.
Education—History of, 148-174. (See Schools.)
Eldred, Joseph G.—858.
Electric Railroads.—133.
Elizabeth Township.—40; changed to Bethel, 40.
Elting, Theron.—637.
Engel, Eugene.—837.
Ensley, Homer.—563.
Ensley, Jacob.—562.
Erie Canal.—When built, 33; importance to Branch County settlement, 33 *et passim;* 34.
Erie and Kalamazoo R. R.—129.
Etheridge, A. Munson.—622.
Etheridge, Kirkland B.—372.
Evangelical Lutheran Churches.—205.
Evans, John S.—143; 144; 186; 869.
Evans, Thomas P.—367.
Ewers, Dr. H. F.—132.
Exchange Bank, Bronson.—128.
Exchange Bank of Crippen and Fisk.—124.

Factories. (See Manufacturing.)
Fairs.—115.
Farmers' Institute Society, Branch County.—114-115.
Farmers' Mutual Insurance Co.—128.
Farmers' National Bank of Union City.—127.
Farmers' and Merchants' Bank of Sherwood.—128.
Farming. (See Agriculture.)
Farrand, Joseph P.—753
Fellows, Burt M.—804.
Fenner, Charles C.—406.
Fenner, Corydon M.—498.
Ferguson, Benjamin R.—873.

Field Notes, Surveyors'.—7; first of Branch County, 7-9; original, where kept, 9; described, 10; copy of, 11.
First National Bank of Quincy.—127.
Fisk, A. C.—37.
Fisk, Clinton B.—124.
Fisk, Samuel.—873.
Flandermeyer, Herman H.—96; 814.
Follett, Thaddeus.—463.
Foote, Burnley.—760.
Foresters, Independent Order of.—231.
Fort Wayne, Jackson and Saginaw R. R.—132.
Foster, J. N.—141.
Fox, Aaron O.—594.
Fox, David.—798.
Fox, John P.—620.
Fraser, Robert.—461.
Fraternities and Clubs.—227-237.
Frederick, H. E.—566.
Freeman, Isaac.—45.
Free Methodist Churches.—195.
Free Public Library of Bronson.—181.
Free-Will or Free Baptist Churches.—199 et seq.
Friedrich, William H., Co.—119.
Fry, Fred P.—425.
Fuller, E. G.—139; 215.

Gamble, E. F.—459.
Gardner, Amos M.—524.
Gardner Family, in Matteson.—83.
Gardner, Samuel.—361.
Gas Light and Fuel Co., Coldwater.—119.
Gattschalk, William H.—846.
Gazette, The Branch County.—140.
Germans, in Branch County.—31.
Gilbert, H. C.—140
Gilead Township.—40; Bishop Chase and, 69; early history, 69-73; population in 1837, 73; first schools, 151; officials of, 308.
Gillam, George F.—104.
Girard Prairie.—74.
Girard Township.—39; early history, 73-76; pioneers of, 76; officials of, 309.
Globensky Bros.—120.
Gloyd, Cynthia.—151.
Goodwin, Justus.—79.
Goodwinsville.—79.
Gorman, Benjamin B.—591.
Graduates. (See Alumni.)
Grand Army Posts.—233-235.
Grange, The—History of, 113-114.
Granger, Adeline.—514.
Graves, Henry A.—103, 388.
Gray, Burr D.—73.
Gray, Charles W.—600.
Gray, John H.—186.
Gray, J. M.—466
Gray, Perry D.—521.
Green, B. F.—647.
Green, David N.—94; 239.
Green, Mrs. David N.—151.
Greenamyer, John A.—552.
Green Township.—38, 39.
Greenwood, George.—368.
Grove, Elijah.—337.
Grove, Theron.—604.
Grube, Howard A.—660.
Gruiner, Anton.—847.
Gruner, Starr W.—531.
Gruner, Ward C.—386.
Gunsaullus, Pyrl H.—703.

Hall, Charles H.—832.
Hall, Clark M.—834.
Hall, Willis.—661.
Hall's Corners.—91.
Halsted, L. D.—37; 56; 239; 589.
Hamilton, Charles.—417.
Hamman, Henry.—730.
Hammond Family.—80.
Hanchett, Edward S.—75; 76.
Hanchett Family, in Algansee.—88.
Hanchett, Joseph.—54.
Hanchett, William.—222.
Hardenbrook, John.—444.
Harris, Charles J.—703.
Harris Line.—13.
Harvesting (see Agriculture).—Pioneer harvesting machinery, 110.
Hawks, Joseph S.—85.
Hawley, Hiram B.—762.
Hawley, Willard S.—487.
Haynes, Harvey.—37, 152, 177.
Hazen, Earl.—492.
Hazen, E. F.—107.
Hazenville.—107.
Hendricks, E. P., surveyor of southern boundary of Branch County.—14.
Hendricks' Line.—14.
Henry, Warren.—196; 480.
Herald, Bronson.—145.
Herald, The Quincy.—144.
Hewelt, J. B.—462.
Hickory Corners.—89.
Highway Commissioners—Lists of, 300-321.
Hildebrand, Frederick.—454.
Hildebrand, Louie F.—455.
Hilton, Thomas A.—96; 610.
Himebaugh Family.—in Noble, 89; Emanuel, 212.
Hodunk.—76; 78; 80.
Holbrook, Arthur G.—823.
Holbrook, David L.—557.
Holbrook, Silas A.—56; 215.
Hollenbeck, Russell B.—642.
Holmes, Cicero J.—853.
Holmes, Florence M.—184.
Holmes, Jonathan and Samuel.—44; build grist mill, 44.
Holmes, Thomas.—43; 70.
Hotels, Early.—New York House, 46, 47; Rose House, 42; Taylor House, 47; Batavia House, 47; Dudley Tavern, 48; Morse Tavern, 50; Eagle House in Coldwater, 57; Corbus House in

Quincy, 65; Cornish's Hotel, 67; Berry House in Quincy, 67; Judson House in Bronson, 69; Union City House, 79; "log tavern" in Sherwood, 81; in California township, 90; Quincy, 101; in Bronson, 105.
Houghtaling Family, at Quincy.—103.
Hughes, Edwin W.—682.
Hulse, John.—656.
Humphrey, Leonard F.—523.
Hungerford, Virgil U.—435.
Hurd Family, at Union City.—79.
Hurd, Mrs. C. E.—558.
Hurd, Theodore C., William P., Henry S.—221; William P., 223.

Immigration.—Variations in, 30; routes of, 33-37; influenced by Erie canal, 33; sources of, 36; beginning of, 41; by Marshall road, 75; to Butler, 77; to Branch County at present, 112.
Indians of Branch County.—24-27; treaties with, 25; villages, 26; trails in Branch County, 26; on Coldwater prairie, 49; on Girard prairie, 74; Indian trail in Sherwood, 81; Indian trail in Matteson, 82; in Kinderhook, 84.
Infirmary, Branch County—History of, 179-180.

Jail, at Branch.—52; destroyed, 61; jails at Coldwater, 61, 62.
James, Lemander.—650.
Jardon, E. M.—457.
Johnson, Adison P.—396.
Johnson Cooperage Co.—119.
Johnson, Ezra.—720.
Johnson, Ira D.—363.
Johnson, John.—333.
Johnson, Jonathan.—848.
Johnson, Leon A.—168; 831.
Johnson, Prosper C.—439.
Johnson, Rollin A.—346.
Jones, Clarence C.—428.
Joseph, Lucas.—101.
Journal, The Branch County.—140.
Journal, The Bronson.—145.
Judd, Alfonso C.—595.

Kellor, Frances A.—187.
Kellsy, Ira.—583.
Kelso, Robert.—488.
Kempster, Stephen W.—350.
Kent, William A.—43; 215.
Kilbourn, Samuel L.—448.
Kinderhook Postoffice.—85.
Kinderhook Township.—40; settlement of, 84-85; pioneers, 84; officials of, 311.
King, Hawkins A.—224.
King, Seth.—792.
Kinter, George.—574.
Kitchel, Horace.—380.
Kitchel, Simon B.—142; 186; 218; 380.
Klock, Geo. W.—188.
Knapp, Frank E.—165; 470.
Knapp, Thomas C.—756.
Knapp, Wells.—106.
Knauss, Henry D.—735.
Knauss, Samuel.—651.
Knecht. John.—482.
Knights of Pythias.—232.
Knights and Ladies of the Maccabees.—228-229; 230; 231; 232; 233.

Ladies' Library Association of Quincy.—182.
Lake Shore and Michigan Southern R. R.—130.
Lakes of Branch County.—16; outlets, 18.
Lampman, Ambrose.—856.
Lampman, Henry S.—77.
Lampson, Boaz.—85.
Lancaster, Columbia.—151; 215.
Larzelere, Daniel.—747.
Lawrence, James H.—90.
Lawyer, Justin.—214, 216.
Lawyers of Branch County.—215-220; roll of in 1875, 216; in 1895, 219; in 1906, 220.
Leckner, Wesley.—484.
Legg, Charles N.—218; history of Coldwater schools, 151, 157; 804.
Leonard, D. P.—779.
Lewis Art Gallery.—184; 188.
Lewis, Ed E.—842.
Lewis, Henry C.—451.
Libraries.—181-184.
Lime Lake.—120.
Lincoln Family, in Union township.—80.
Literature—Activity in, 184.
Littlefield, Darwin.—222.
Locke, A. LeRoy.—565.
Lockerby, William H.—667.
Lockwood, Edward C.—418.
Lockwood, George.—77.
Lockwood Family, in Ovid.—86.
Lockwood, Herbert B.—612.
Long, James M.—223.
Loomis Battery.—284-286.
Loring, Mrs. George E.—783.
Loveridge, H. C.—820.
Loveridge, Noah P.—217; 818.
Lowry, Jefferson.—833.
Lowry, William T.—584.
Luce, Cyrus G.—212, 327.
Lyons.—First name of Coldwater, 55.
Lytle, A. L.—103.

Mack, Thomas W.—395.
Mack, Truman C.—452.
Mallow Family, in Noble.—89.
Mallow, George W.—732.
Mallow, William.—336.
Mann, Jacob W.—741.
Mann, Mark H.—672.
Mansell, George.—96; Edwin, 97.
Mansfield, Coldwater and Lake Michigan R. R.—133.
Mansfield, Pizarro.—855.

Manufacturing.—Union City Iron Co., 98; in Branch County, 116-123; Cement industry, 120-123.
Marl.—120.
Marquart, William.—478.
Marsh Family.—45.
Marsh, Francis E.—103; 224.
Marsh, Franklin D.—94.
Marsh, Lansing C.—224.
Marsh, Loren.—26.
Marshall and Coldwater R. R.—133.
Marshall Road.—75.
Martin, George.—598.
Martin, Ira A.—556.
Martin, John G.—597.
Martin, Peter.—56; his sawmill, 58.
Masonic Organizations.—227-228; 229; 230.
Masonville—History of, 51.
Matteson, Amos.—83.
Matteson Township.—40; settlement of, 82-84; pioneers of, 84; officials of, 312.
McCarger, A. T.—147.
McCarty, William.—56; his house the oldest in Coldwater, 56.
McCausey, Joseph W.—371.
McCrary, Alexander C.—643.
McCrary, Clay.—649.
McCrary, Mrs. Alexander C.—646.
McCrary, Roy.—648.
McGowan, Jonas H.—140; 186; 217; 212.
McKenzie Cereal Food and Milling Co.—120.
McIntyre, Alexander.—616.
McIntyre, John F.—716.
McLane, John H.—701.
McLean, Hector.—419.
McNall, Irving.—867.
McMurray, Hugh.—519.
Medical Profession—History of, 221-226.
Medical Society, The Branch County.—226.
Mennonites.—89; 206.
Meridian, for survey of Branch County.—8.
Merrifield, Marc A.—218, 635.
Merrill, Js.—632.
Methodist Episcopal Churches.—190 et seq.; at Coldwater, 190; Quincy, 191; Bronson, 192; Sherwood, 193; Girard, 193; Union City, 194; other churches, 194.
Michigan State Telephone Co.—135.
Military History.—256-296.
Miller, Harvey D.—769.
Miller, Joseph.—494.
Miller, Willis A.—752.
Mills.—Adams' sawmill, 43; Driggs', 43; Holmes' grist mill, 44; Woodard mill, 47; Black Hawk, 51, 53; first at Coldwater, 58; Coombs' mills, 59; Bishop Chase at Adams' mills, 69; Gilead mill, 71; first in Girard, 75; Hodunk, 76, 80; Union City, 79; Crater's in Algansee, 88; Wakeman's in Algansee, 88; in California, 92; at Coldwater, 93; Quincy, 102. (See Manufacturing.)
Milnes, Alfred.—212; 681.
Milnes Supply Company.—96.
Mintling, James B.—666.
Mockridge, Robert F.—94.
Modern Woodmen.—232.
Monlux, George.—91.
Monroe, George.—727.
Montague, J. H.—717.
Moore, Bradley O.—638.
Moore, W. G.—141; 186.
Morgan, F. E.—218.
Morrill, Oliver.—426.
Morrison, Paschal P.—778.
Morse, John.—50; 54.
Moseley, Augustus C.—728.
Mosher, J. D.—765.
Mowry, Henry P.—224; 671.
Music.—Activity in, 184.
Mystic Workers of the World.—230.

Nationalities in Branch County.—31.
Neal, John N.—813.
Nesbitt, John S.—354.
Nettleton, V. L. and Company.—96.
Newberry, Frank D.—538.
Newberry, Mrs. Fannie E.—187; 540.
Newberry, Peter M.—37.
Newell, Charles H.—141; 483.
Newman, Stephen.—592.
News, The Quincy.—145.
Newspapers—History of, in Branch County, 138-147.
New York House.—41.
Nicholls, Ansell.—37.
Nichols, P. P.—140; 141; 186.
Noble Township.—40; settlement of, 89-90; officials of, 313.
Northwest Territory.—Ordinance of 1787 for government of, 12.
Norton, William P.—506.
Noyes, Orlando G.—560.

Observer, The Coldwater.—139.
Odd Fellows Organization.—228; 232.
Odren, Alex.—91.
Officials of Branch County and Townships and Villages.—297-326.
Ogden, James S.—403.
Ohio.—Boundaries, source of trouble, 13.
Olds, Clarence L.—689.
Olds, Fred.—422.
Olds, Martin.—47; 36.
Olmstead, Benjamin.—48.
Olmstead, Moses.—45.
Olney, Henry.—786.
Orangeville.—80.
Order of Eastern Star.—231; 233.
Ordinance of 1787.—quoted, 12.
Ordinance Line.—12, 13.
Osborn, Zelotes G.—211; 802.
Outwater, John E.—663.
Ovid Township.—39; settlement of, 85-87; officials of, 314.
Owen, Charles W.—141, 144, 145, 186, 774.

Palmer, Elmer E.—212, 710.
Paradine, Mrs. E. R. G.—460.
Parker, Marcellus H.—64, 189, 413.
Parker, Richmond F.—722.
Parkhurst, John G.—218; 212; 339.
Parks, John D.—854.
Parley's Corners.—87.
Parrish, Kimble.—499.
Parsons, Alfred.—344.
Patrons of Husbandry (see Grange).
Paul, James B.—508.
Paul, Wilson S.—697.
Pearce, Edwin K.—585.
Peerless Portland Cement Co.—121.
Phillips, John F.—393.
Physicians.—221-226; list of, 225.
Piatt, Nathaniel.—684.
Pierce, Charles.—860.
Pierce, Oren L.—563.
Pierson, Clara D.—187.
Pioneer Society—History of, 238-239.
Pioneers, Alphabetical Record.—239-255.
Pitcher, David.—871.
Pixley, Augustus.—105.
Polish People of Branch County.—20, 32, 105.
Political History of Branch County.—210-213; see sketch of Isaac Bennett.
Pollock, Samuel.—820.
Pomona Grange.—114.
Pond, C. V. R.—144, 186.
Pond, Elihu B.—140, 186.
Pond, Jared.—210.
Population.—In Branch County, increase and distribution of, 28-32; influence of Black Hawk war on, 29; nationalities, 31; sources of, 36; attracted to Girard prairie, 74; of Bronson village, 105.
Porter, Philo.—48.
Postal Service.—134 (see Postoffices).
Postoffices.—Bronson, 42; Prairie River, 43; Quincy, 67; Goodwinsville, 79; Matteson, 83; Kinderhook, 85; Parley's Corners, 87; Algansee, 88; Hickory Corners, 89; Union City, 100; Rural Delivery, 114; 134-135.
Potawatomi Indians.—24; treaties with, 25; villages, 26; on Coldwater prairie, 49; on Girard prairie, 74. (See Indians.)
Powers, D. C.—223.
Powers, Randall D. and Charles.—106.
Prairie River Township.—39, 40.
Pratt Manufacturing Co.—118.
Presbyterian Churches.—200 et seq.; Coldwater, 200; Quincy, 201; California, 201.
Presidents.—Village, lists of, 321-326.
Pridgeon, John, Jr.—362.
Primary School Fund.—148.
Probate Judges—List of, 297.
Prosecuting Attorneys—List of, 297.
Protestant Episcopal Churches—207-208.
Purdy, Fred.—772.
Purdy, Horace.—87.
Quick, Edmund W.—408.
Quincy Independent Telephone Co.—136.
Quincy State Bank.—127.
Quincy Township.—39; early settlement, 65 et seq.; first officers, 68; officials of, 316.
Quincy Village.—66; history of, 101-103; manufacturing, 117 et seq.; library, 182; schools, 164 et seq.; churches, 190-209.

Railroads.—In the thirties, 34, 93, 98; underground, 99; history of railroads in Branch County, 129-134.
Randall, Caleb D.—176, 216.
Randall, Dr. Alvah.—221.
Randall, Seth B.—654.
Ransford, Edward B.—825.
Ransom, Alvarado B.—528.
Rate Bill.—152, 158.
Rathburn, Charles D.—827.
Rathburn, P. J.—836.
Regal Gasoline Engine Co.—118.
Regiments of Branch County Soldiers (see under Soldiers).
Register, The Sherwood.—146.
Register, The Union City.—146.
Registers of Deeds—List of, 298.
Religion and Churches.—190-209; Bishop Chase at Adams' Mills, 70; Mennonites in Noble, 89; in Bronson village, 105; Y. M. C. A., 237.
Reporter, The.—142.
Republican, The.—140.
Republican, The Branch County.—140.
Reynolds Family, in Batavia Township.—47.
Reynolds, Frank B.—619.
Reynolds, Norman A.—617.
Rheubottom, F. C.—100.
Rice, Samuel W.—353.
Richey, James.—400.
Roads.—Overland, 33 et seq; Chicago road (see), 34, 41; Indian road into Gilead, 72; Marshall road, 75; state road, 78; territorial road in Sherwood, 81; "Kalamazoo trail," 82; state road in Matteson.
Robinson, Arthur E.—658.
Robinson, T. F.—146.
Robinson, W. L.—146.
Roman Catholic Churches.—207.
Ronan, Michael.—659.
Root, Edward R.—123, 863.
Root, Roland.—51, 80, 211.
Rose House, in Bronson.—42.
Rose, L. A.—104, 105.
Rossman Family, in Butler.—77.
Royal Arcanum.—231.
Rudd, L. and Son, Bank.—128.
Runyan, Henry.—699.
Rural Free Delivery.—114, 134-135.
Russell, George A.—865.

Sager, Charles H.—399.

Salisbury, Joseph N.—549.
Salsberry Family, in Ovid.—86.
Sanders, Abishi.—72.
Sanders, Levi.—877.
Sanford, George R.—739.
Saunders, H. R.—700.
Sawdey, R. C. and W. S.—96.
Schaffmaster, Christopher.—377.
Scheidler, L. F.—755.
Schools (see Education).—First in Batavia, 48; at Branch, 52; in Quincy township, 69; in Algansee, 88; in California, 92; character of early schools, 148 et seq.; early schools in: Bronson, 151; Gilead, 151; Coldwater, 151 et seq.; "rate bill," 152; Union schools, 153; administrative officers, 153; consolidation of districts, 155; Coldwater city schools, 157-164; Quincy Schools, 164; Union City schools, 167; Bronson schools, 171; Sherwood schools, 173.
School Books in Early Use.—150.
School Reports.—From various townships, 154; from Bronson, 172.
School Taxes.—152.
Schultz, Samuel.—803.
Sears, Clark C.—479.
Sears, Charles S.—665.
Sebring, John.—628.
Secor, John.—874.
Seely, Southerland M.—405.
Segur, M. S.—103.
Sentinel, The Coldwater.—138; 139 *et passim.*
Settlement and Beginnings.—41 et seq.; influence of Chicago road, 34, 49-59, 65-77, 78-92.
Seymour, George H.—550.
Seymour, Henry.—826.
Shaffmaster, A. D.—146, 187.
Shaw, William E.—744.
Shedd, Louisa.—851.
Shepard, Albert.—493.
Sherer, Samuel.—442.
Sherer, William.—442.
Sheriffs—List of, 298.
Sherman, Albert A.—812.
Sherwood Heading Co.—119.
Sherwood Township.—39; settlement of, 81-82; pioneers of, 81; officials of, 317.
Sherwood Village.—History of, 107; schools, 173 et seq.; churches, 190 et seq.
Shipman, J. B.—218, 211.
Shook, Jacob.—77, 214.
Shook's Prairie.—76.
Shoudler, Hiram.—211.
Silo Tanks.—112.
Simmons, Reuben M.—806.
Sloman, Louis.—530.
Skeels, F. L.—186, 218.
Smead, Daniel.—46.
Smith, Abram L.—693.
Smith, Benjamin H.—75.
Smith, F. V.—94, 186.
Smith, George K.—223.
Smith, Marshall F.—415.
Smith, Orin L.—578.
Smith, Sarah A.—343.
Snider, William W.—738.
Snow Prairie.—settled, 45.
Soldiers, Roster of.—1st Mich. Inf., 258-260; 7th Mich. Inf., 261-262; 9th Mich. Inf., 262-264; 11th Mich. Inf., 264-269; 15th Mich. Inf., 269-270; 16th Mich. Inf., 270-271; 17th Mich. Inf., 271-272; 19th Mich. Inf., 272-275; 28th Mich. Inf., 275-276; 1st Mich. Sharpshooters, 276-277; 4th Mich. Cav., 277-279; 5th Mich. Cav., 279-280; 8th Mich. Cav., 280-282; 9th Mich. Cav., 282-283; 11th Mich. Cav., 283-284; Battery A., 284-286; Battery D, 286-288; Battery F, 289-290; Battery G, 290-291. Other regiments, 292-296.
Sorter, Delivan.—391.
Sorter, William C.—420.
Southern Michigan National Bank.—125.
Southworth, Floyd E.—841.
Spanish-American War.—Branch County's record in, 256-258.
Spore, Clarence B.—518.
Sprague, W. B.—37; history of Coldwater, 56, 210.
Sprout, DeWitt C.—468.
Stafford, Charles W.—724.
Staley, Frederick.—630.
Stanton, Edward D.—823.
Stanton, John A.—558.
Stanton, William A.—365.
Star, The.—143.
Star, The Michigan.—139.
Starr, George.—707.
State Roads.—36. (See Roads.)
State Public School—History of, 175-180.
Stearns, George W.—675.
Stepper, John G.—338.
Stewart, Frederick W.—572.
Stiles, Luther.—88.
Stillman, H. B.—140, 222.
St. Joseph River.—19, 78.
St. Mary's Parish.—462.
Stokes, Mary A.—351.
Straight, Henry E.—220, 731.
Stray, George J.—788.
Stuart, James B.—51.
Studley, Jerome J.—107.
Styles, George.—218.
Sun, The.—143.
Sunday School Association, Branch County.—209.
Supervisors—Lists of, 300-321.
Survey of County.—6-15; value of, 6; "rectangular system," 6; meridian and base line, 6; "Field Notes," 7; beginning of, 7; survey of Chicago road, 36.
Surveyors, County—List of, 9; 299.
Swain, Charles E.—440.
Swain, Frank.—518.

Swain, James.—155, 156, 173, 513.

Talbott, Leroy B.—553.
Tappan, Frank T.—801.
Taylor, Leonard.—507.
Telegraph.—First in county, 130.
Telephones.—History of, 135-136.
Thatcher, Reuben J.—573.
Thompson, David.—217.
Thompson, Roy.—607.
Thorpe, Calvin J.—143, 144, 186, 187, 211.
Tibbits, Allen.—54; settles in Coldwater, 55; zeal in promoting village, 57.
Tibbits Opera House.—95.
Tift, David.—87.
Times, The Quincy.—145.
Toledo War.—13.
Tomlinson, Alex E.—81.
Tompkins, Charles A.—369.
Tompkins, Francis J.—55, 839.
Tompkins, James B.—75, 76.
Tompkins, James T.—679.
Tompkins, William A.—743.
Toole, John.—Pioneer teacher and mill proprietor, 51 (see Bronson).
Topography of Branch County.—16-20.
Tower, Isaac.—384.
Tower, Willis H.—385.
Townships.—Four fractional, when surveyed, 14; drainage, 21-23; formation of, 38-41; government and civil, 38; Green, 38; Coldwater, 39; Prairie River, 39 (see under township names).
Township Officers—Lists of, 300-321.
Trails, Indian.—35 (see Indians).
Transportation.—By St. Joseph river, 78 (see Chicago road); history of, in Branch County, 129-137.
Treasurers.—Township, lists of, 300-321.
Treasurers.—Village, lists of, 321-326.
Treat, Samuel I.—423.
Treat, Samuel M.—86.
Tripp, David.—434.
Tripp, George.—85.
Truesdell, C. L.—103.
Tucker, Chester S.—223.
Turner, G. H.—141; 186.
Turner, John W.—217, 211.
Turner, Nathaniel.—83.
Turner, Sarah M.—709.
Turner, Samuel R.—596.
Turner, Thomas J.—865.
Tuttle, George A.—460.
Twadell, Rodney K.—685.
Tyler, Alphonso.—446.
Tyler, William M.—359.

Underground Railroad.—99.
Union City.—78; platted, 79; history, 98-10[illegible] manufacturing, 117 et seq.; schools, 167 et seq.; library, 181; churches, 190 et seq.
Union City National Bank.—126.
Union Schools—Origin of, 153; 172.
Union Township.—39; settlement of, 78-81; pioneers of, 80; officials of, 318.
Unitarian Churches.—206.
United Brethren Churches.—205.
Upson, Alonzo S.—125, 350.
Upson, Charles.—214, 216, 212, 348.

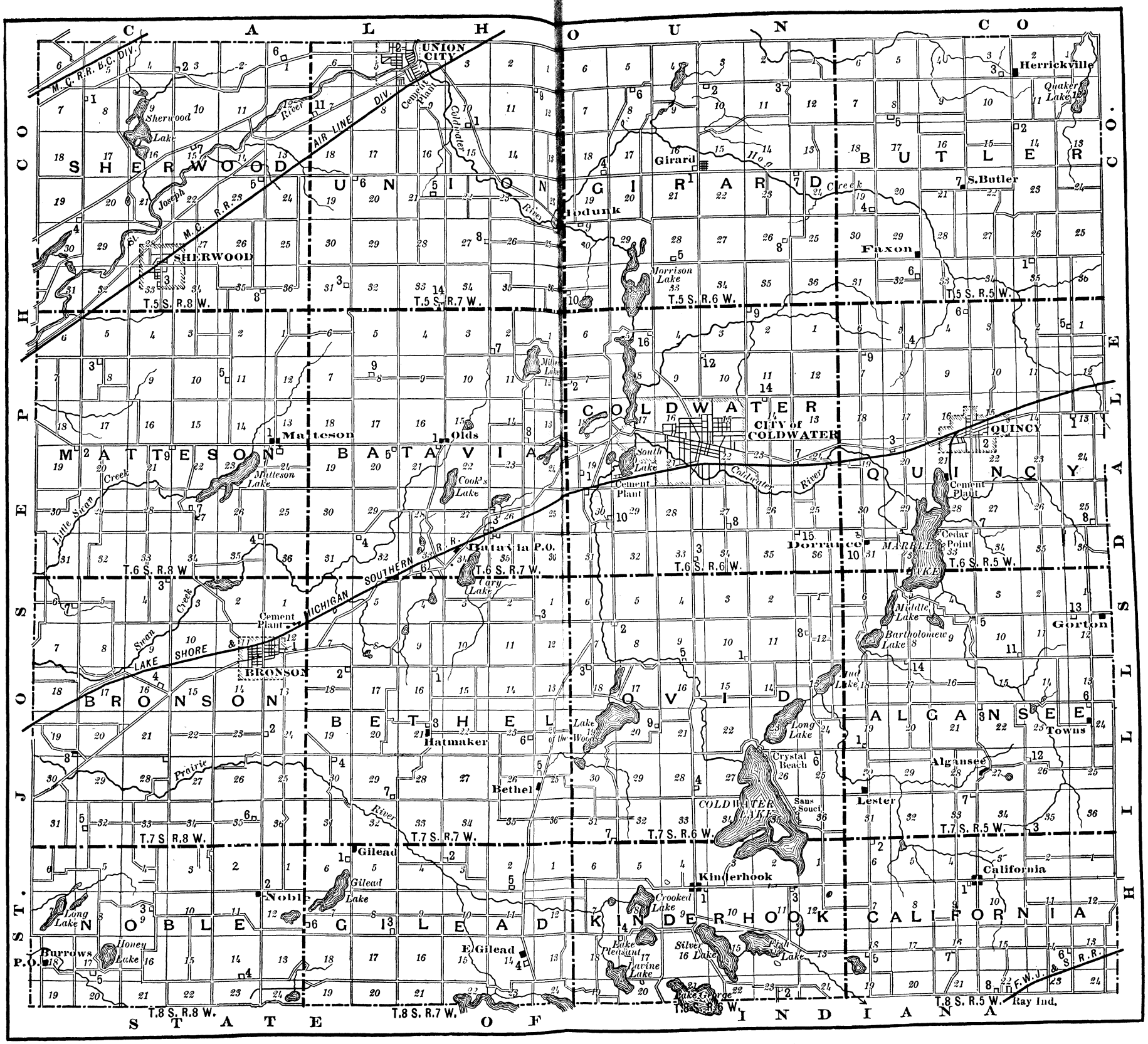
Van Aken, George W.—114, 712.
Van Aken, M. J.—815.
Van Blarcum Family.—75.
Van Every, Chauncey M.—358.
Van Nuys, J. H.—544.
Van Schoick, Rev. R. W.—187.
Van Slyck, William.—810.
Villages of Branch County.—98-107.
Vosburgh, Mortimer.—849.

Waggot, D. D.—145.
Walter, William.—564.
Wanar, William.—652.
Warner, C. D.—615.
Warner, E. A.—216.
Warner, Harvey.—At Village of Branch, 52, 53.
Warren, Elisha.—Plats Branch Village, 52; sketch, 53.
Warren's Military Band.—106.
Wars.—Branch County in the country's, 256-296.
Warsabo, L. A.—224, 490.
Waterhouse Corners.—85.
Waterhouse, John.—85.
Waterman, David and Alonzo.—42.
Waters, Samuel.—409.
Waterworks.—In Coldwater, 94; in Union City, 100; Quincy, 102.
Watkins, Edward M.—542.
Watkins, Ed W.—663.
Watson, Frank J.—634.
Watson, Joseph.—106.
Watson, Robert.—83, 627.
Wattles, George C.—537.
Wesleyan Methodist Church at Coldwater.—192.
West, Charles P.—139, 185.
West, Laura.—186.
White, Dana P.—750.
White, Geo. M.—817.
Whitehead, Henry V.—870.
Whitley, Henry C.—755.
Whitney, Willard.—609.
Wilber, Havens.—570.
Wilcox, Edward P.—555.
Wilcox, Loring P.—704.
Wilkins, John H.—758.
Willbur, P. D.—614.
Williams, C. Ross.—510.
Williams, E. H.—485.
Williams, Frank N.—397.
Williams, Harlow W.—468.
Williams, Mary M.—794.
Williams, Sheldon.—85.
Willis, George E.—670.
Willis, William.—602.

Willson, Horris.—Quincy pioneer, 65.
Wilson, L. T. N.—216.
Wilson, Reuben and Daniel.—86.
Wilson, William.—224; 623.
Wing, Lucius M.—740.
Withington, Myron J.—718.
Wolverine Telephone Co.—136.
Woman's Christian Temperance Union.—209.
Woman's Relief Corps.—Union City, 230.
Women's Clubs (see Clubs).
Wood, David H.—691.
Woodcox, Cornelius H.—224.
Woodward, Horace J.—669.
Wooley, Celia Parker.—187.
Wright, C. D.—218.

Yeatter, Sydney E.—789.
York Village.—Original name of Bronson, 40, 42.
Young, Charles H.—145, 692.
Young, D. W.—103.
Young, Hiram.—608.
Young Men's Christian Association.—237.
Young, William F.—475.
Youngs, Dwight E.—861.

Zimmerman, John D.—99.
Zimmerman, Lorenzo.—532.



The location and number of every schoolhouse in the county is indicated by a square and a heavy-faced numeral.
The names of various "corners" and former postoffices are given even though no center now exists there.
Pains have been taken to represent every highway as found in the county at the date of publication.

HISTORY OF BRANCH COUNTY.

CHAPTER I.

THE COUNTY AS A SUBJECT OF HISTORY.

"All parti-colored threads the weaver Time
Sets in his web, now trivial, now sublime,
All memories, all forebodings, hopes and fears,
Mountain and river, forest, prairie, sea,
A hill, a rock, a homestead, field, or tree,
The casual gleanings of unreckoned years,
Take goddess-shape at last and there is She."

—*James Russell Lowell.*

Branch County, Michigan, is a name having two distinct though closely connected meanings. It denotes a certain definite portion of the earth's surface, and also the people inhabiting that portion. This definite area is a part of the territory of the "The State of Michigan," and is thereby also a part of the domain of that great body politic known as "The United States of America." In its designation of the people inhabiting this area, the name Branch county signifies that they are themselves an organized, political "body corporate," with a certain distinct life of their own, and that at the same time they are a part of "The People of the State of Michigan," and also of that great republic of united states of which the State of Michigan is one.

In this volume the writers and publishers of it have undertaken to present in printed form a history of Branch County, Michigan, as thus defined. These sentences are being written in the year 1905 A. D., or in the fifth year of the twentieth century of the Christian era. We propose to look at the life the people of this county have lived upon their land in the light of the knowledge and thought of this Twentieth Christian Century. We shall attempt to compose their history, as nearly as we may, in accordance with the principles and methods with which the Twentieth Century historian's art portrays humanity's past.

The area now definitely known as Branch county was made definite, was made into a county, and the name of "Branch" was given to it, by the Legislative Council and Governor of the Territory of Michigan, on the 29th of October, 1829. The part of the act by which this was done reads thus: "That so much of the country as lies west of the line between ranges four and five, west of the meridian, and east of the line between ranges eight and nine west, and south of the line between townships four and five, south

of the base line, and north of the boundary-line between this Territory and the State of Indiana, be and the same is hereby set off into a separate county, and the name thereof shall be Branch." As thus created, defined, and named, this area has remained without change in its boundaries from the above date to the present, and has been recognized as Branch County by all the people and powers that be that have had anything to do with it. It has thus had a continuous existence for seventy-six years. It is true, as will be noted more particularly in later pages, that in the full political sense of the term "county" the people residing on the area so named did not become a complete, organized, separate county until March 1, 1833, or until nearly four years after the area had been made such geographically.

The second and more important part of what the word "county" denotes in American speech and literature, is the people inhabiting its area as organized into a civil social body or body politic. The census taken by the State of Michigan in 1904, one year ago, gave the population of Branch County as 26,397. The separate enumeration of the people of Branch County as such was made in the first state census in 1837. At least this is the first such enumeration of which the records are known by the officials of the county and state to be in existence. That census of 1837 made known the fact that Branch County as a distinct body politic consisted of 4,016 persons. During the 68 years from 1837 to 1905, that body of 4,016 men, women and children became 26,397.

The subject before us, both as writers and readers, is Branch County in the twofold meaning of the name as thus described. In writing its history, its people and their life will be the continuous and chief object of our attention. We accept the generally recognized truth, that the life of people is largely determined by the land upon which they live, by climate and the other various factors of nature's environment. But the central object of our contemplation will be first, those 4,016 men, women and children who were living the county's life in 1837, and then those who inherited it and further developed it through the decades and generations following. To portray what this life has been in its manifold forms, to indicate the causes of it, to trace the generative and formative forces at work in it, and to show some of the facts and truths that will help the 26,000 people of the county today in their efforts for even greater prosperity and welfare in the years before them, this is the task we have undertaken. Among the matters thus to be written of in this history are these: the physical, mental, moral and religious character of those who began the communities of Coldwater, Quincy, Union City and Bronson and of those who formed the sixteen organized townships of the county; their nationality, whether born in the United States or in some foreign country; from what other portions of the United States those who have moved into the county have come, and thus what ideas and customs they have brought with them and made a part of the county's life; the industries in which the people have engaged, the wealth that has been accumulated, the kind of dwellings the inhabitants have built for themselves, and the domestic conveniences they have had in them; the general conditions

as to health and sanitary care; the means of intercourse and transportation, that is, roads, highways, railroads, vehicles, bicycles and automobiles, telegraphs and telephones; the kinds of persons who have been the teachers, clergymen, physicians and lawyers of the county; the institutions and social agencies through which education, intelligence, culture, music, painting, morality, public spirit and religion have been promoted, that is, schools, newspapers, fraternal, philanthropic and political societies, theaters and opera houses, churches and Sunday schools; the divisions of the people among the great political parties of the nation, party politics in the county, and the administration of the various offices of the county, of its one city, and its several villages and townships. The life of the county in these various forms has embodied itself more largely in some individual men and women than in others. Accordingly, it is part of the plan of this work to give large space to the biographies and portraits of persons in whom the life of the county has more largely and influentially expressed itself. We shall strive to make our record as complete as space will permit. Absolute freedom from error will be impossible, but we shall take great care to make the history and biographical sketches accurate in statement and truthful to life as it has been lived by individual men and women and by the people of the county as a whole.

The white inhabitants of Branch county's area, besides thus living their own life within it among themselves, have also lived a life in mutual relations with the rest of mankind. They have been a part of larger wholes. They have put elements into the larger life of these larger wholes, and have received elements from them into its own life. A complete history of the county's area and inhabitants must recognize this connection. The area of the county, along with the peninsula of which it is a part, has been under the jurisdiction successively of the kingdom of France, the kingdom of Great Britain, and the republic of the United States. Indeed there is a still more primary relation of this area of which a complete history must take note, namely, its natural relation as a part of the earth's surface to the peninsula lying between Lakes Erie and Huron on the east and Lake Michigan on the west. As an arena of the history of the people occupying it, beginning with the family of "Jabe" Bronson in 1828, it has had its animal life and its vegetation, or its fauna and its flora, its rainfall and other meteorological conditions, its surface with slopes and prairie-like portions, its land and its water, its lakes and streams with the direction and movement of their waters, its soil, its stone, its clay and marl, and its underlying and outcropping geological strata. All these natural factors have affected the life of the people who have increased from one family to 26,000. But these factors and their effect upon the people cannot be understood and historically exhibited without considering their relation to the large region to which this particular area belongs. The several sciences into which these natural features fall have described and explained the corresponding phases of nature in this large region. Even the history of a county, or of a township, must recognize the influence of nature in it upon man's life in it, and must use what science

tells us are the facts and truths of nature in the large region, in exhibiting the facts and truths of nature in the lesser area. On this arena with its physical condition and its previous political relations with France, England and the United States, the 4,016 white inhabitants of Branch county in 1837 began their relation with the new state of Michigan, which that year was admitted as such into the Union. Since that time the inhabitants of the county as a body politic have carried on their life as an organic part of the state of Michigan, and through it also as an organic part of our great American republic, while in numerous other ways than those strictly civil and political the people of the county have entered into the life of the people of the commonwealth, of the nation and of the world, and have taken the life of these larger realms into their own. The forms and the products of this continuous interaction will be to many, perhaps, the more interesting part of our county's history.

These introductory thoughts indicate the scope of this work and our aims in it. Stated briefly, these aims have been three fold: 1. To show how Branch county came into existence as a definite area and what it has been as such. 2. To portray what the life of the people within this area has been. 3. To make the vision of the past a pleasure and a recompense to those who have done anything for the welfare and happiness of Branch county's people and the world thus far, and an incentive and inspiration to all to live for this welfare and happiness in even a higher degree in the future.

In preparing to write this history, it was natural that we should acquaint ourselves with whatever history of the county may have been composed by previous writers. Any such previous work would be sure to be of service in presenting another and later picture of Branch county's life. Considerable of a historical nature relating to the county has been written and printed during the last fifty years, and much too in the way of biography of persons who have been residents in it. What has been thus done is itself material for our history. Moreover, justice to preceding writers and honesty with our readers require that the work of those writers be recognized and that acknowledgment be made of its value and use. It is our purpose to give in another place in this volume a complete bibliography of the county. In only two instances, however, have a history of the county and biographies of its residents been printed in book form with contents extensive enough to be properly called a county history or a county biography. We make mention here of these two works, inasmuch as the first one in particular comes into consideration in laying out the plan and the periods of the present history. The first one was entitled as follows: "History of Branch County, Michigan, with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Some of its Prominent Men and Pioneers." This history was written by Mr. Crisfield Johnson, and was published by Everts and Abbott of Philadelphia, in 1879. It is a medium sized quarto volume of 347 pages. The second work referred to has the following title page: "Portrait and Biographical Album of Branch County, Michigan, containing Full Page Portraits and Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens of the County, Together with Por-

traits and Biographies of all the Governors of the State and the Presidents of the United States. Chicago, Chapman Brothers, 1888." This volume is a smaller sized quarto than the other, but contains 654 pages. The latter part is devoted to Branch county and begins with page 180, thus giving to the county 474 pages.

The former of these works was a real history of the county. The latter was a collection of brief biographies of "prominent and representative citizens of the county," 364 in number, but it contained no history proper apart from the "biographical sketches." The other volume compiled by Mr. Johnson was a fairly full general history of the county as a whole, with a particular history of its one city, its four villages, and its sixteen townships, up to the date of its publication, the year 1879. Since then no such particular history of the county as a whole has been given to the public or attempted until the present work was begun.

We now present the periods into which the entire time of the county's life may be conveniently divided by reason of events and developments in it. These periods will form the general framework which we shall use in building up the present history.

1. From 1828 to 1842; or, from the year of the first white settlement in the county at Bronson to the transfer of the county seat from the village of Branch to Coldwater.

2. From 1842 to 1865; or, from the location of the county seat in Coldwater to the close of the Civil war.

3. From 1865 to 1879; or, from the return home of Branch county's soldiers in the Civil war to the publishing of Mr. Crisfield Johnson's history of the county.

4. From 1879 to 1906; or, from the publishing of Mr. Johnson's history by Everts and Abbott to the publication of The Twentieth Century History of the County by The Lewis Publishing Company of Chicago.

CHAPTER II.

THE CREATION AND SURVEY OF THE COUNTY.

Let us now note precisely what and where Branch county is, its area, and how men came to define its boundaries with the precision of civilized custom and to make them permanent. We have already referred to the act by which the county was created, and have quoted from it the exact language in which its area was described and its boundaries established. The language thus used by the legislative council of the territory of Michigan is that in which the United States government describes and bounds the surveyed divisions of its public lands. It implied that already, previous to 1829, the surveyors of the United States had been over the territory to be made into Branch county, and had divided it into "ranges" of townships "west of the meridian," and into "townships" "south of the base line." These terms assumed that these men had already measured and marked off this land into portions six miles square and containing a certain number of acres.

This work of the United States surveyor must be done before people in the domain of the United States can begin to live upon its land and form such associations with each other as constitute a county. Only on condition of this preliminary work having been done can definite individual ownership exist, and those mutual rights and duties of men with each other be established, which make an organic body such as a township or a county possible. The legislative council of Michigan territory were able to declare where and what the area of our county should be, because the United States measurers of land had already laid their measuring chain upon the land out of which the county was to be made. It was this fact that made it possible, for example, for John Morse in 1830 and Robert H. Abbott in 1831 to each become the owner of "80 acres" now lying within the limits of the City of Coldwater. In 1796 congress enacted the law in accordance with which all the public lands were to be surveyed. The system embodied in this act is called "The Rectangular System." The original act has been repeatedly amended by congress, and the methods of making the surveys under it have been continually modified and improved, but the system as such has been used through the hundred years from 1796 to the present time. The entire territory of the present state of Michigan has been surveyed and divided into townships in accordance with this system and with reference to a certain "meridian" and "base line."

"The meridian" spoken of in the territorial act as determining the location of Branch county was a north and south line known in the United States survey as "the principal meridian of the peninsula of Michigan." It is a

line running due north from the mouth of the Auglaize river, which empties into the Maumee near Defiance, Ohio. "The base line," or the east and west line also mentioned in the act creating the county, is a line crossing the principal meridian at a point 54 miles north of the southern boundary of the state. It now forms the northern boundary of all the counties in the second tier, or of the counties from Wayne on the east to Van Buren on Lake Michigan, the tier next north of Branch. With this principal meridian and this base line established, the surveyors of the general government began to go over the public land of the peninsula of Michigan lying north of Indiana and Ohio, with compass and chain, and to mark trees and set posts for the boundaries of townships and sections and quarter-sections. These surveyors knew, of course, no names of counties and townships as we know them now, neither did they give names at all to townships or groups of townships as they surveyed them. They recorded and dated carefully day by day their measurements and topographical notes in their note-books, thus creating the original "Field Notes," which in Branch county and every county today are of such primary and incalculable importance for titles, deeds, mortgages and all transactions involving buying, selling and owning of land. As they tramped over the surface of the country, measuring and marking it off into portions each exactly six miles square, making a township, they gave no names to the townships, but merely numbered them in their relation to meridian and base line, according to the ingenious but simple system, the principles of which were struck in the Land Ordinance of 1785, but which appeared fairly well developed in the Congressional Act of 1796.

Mr. Silas Farmer, in his "Michigan Book" of 1901, says: "The public surveys of the region including Michigan were begun in 1815." In the "Outline History of Michigan," contained in the Legislative Manual of 1905, the statement is made that "the survey of public lands began in 1816." We shall see that there is a sense in which each of these authorities is correct as to the year in which the United States surveyors began laying the foundations of the white man's civilization on the public lands of the Michigan peninsula. The earliest date appended to any part of their records or "field notes" of their survey of what afterward became Branch county, is January 23, 1825. It was thus ten years after the beginning of their work in the Michigan country that the surveyor's chain was first laid down within the limits of our county. The eastern boundary of Branch county was stated in the creating act to be "the line between ranges four and five west of the meridian." Its distance west from the meridian was accordingly twenty-four miles. The surveyors must necessarily start from the principal meridian in measuring off their townships, and work east and west from it. In working westward from it towards our area, they must first lay out the townships which are now Hillsdale county, as this is the first county west of the meridian in the southern tier of counties, and indeed is the only county between the meridian and Branch county. The exact location of the townships destined to become Branch county would be dependent upon the previous location of the townships to become Hillsdale county, and the

dependence of all these townships of both counties was dependent upon the Michigan meridian. This dependence was so close and so important that a glance at the survey of Hillsdale's townships and at the history of the meridian itself will be interesting and will make our own history more complete.

The Territorial Act of October 29, 1829, creating Branch county, at the same time also created and set off all the counties touching it on its three Michigan sides, namely, Hillsdale, Jackson, Calhoun, Kalamazoo and St. Joseph. The meridian itself was made the eastern boundary of the county to be called Hillsdale. This meridian has already been stated to be a line starting from the mouth of the Auglaize river in Ohio and running due north. But how come it to start from that point? Mr. Crisfield Johnson in his History of Branch County, p. 29, has indicated the answer. In a treaty made with the Indians November 17, 1807, they ceded their rights to certain land. The exact language of the treaty describing the western boundary of this land was in part the following: "To the mouth of the great Au Glaize river; thence running due north until it intersects a parallel of latitude, to be drawn from the outlet of Lake Huron, which forms the river Sinclair." Evidently the boundary line in this Indian treaty of 1807 is the origin of the Michigan meridian, but when it was officially determined upon and proclaimed as such, or when the actual survey of it from the mouth of the Auglaize was begun, the present writer has not yet with certainty discovered.

However, as to when that part of the meridian lying within the state of Michigan was actually run, the book of Field Notes of Hillsdale County in the office of its county surveyor shows us with almost conclusive certainty. The eastern boundary of all the townships in the easternmost range of Hillsdale county is identical with the principal meridian. All these townships are in "range 1 west," that is, in the first range west of the meridian. The present names of these townships from south to north are Wright, Pittsford, Wheatland and Somerset. At the end of the field notes of the survey of the "East Boundary" of Wright township, or T 8 S, R 1 W, in the Hillsdale County Book of Field Notes, is written the following: "Oct. 6, 1815, Benj. Hough, D. S." The notes of the eastern boundaries of the other three townships are subscribed in nearly the same manner. The notes of Pittsford, or T 7 S, R 1 W, are subscribed thus: "Surveyed in 1815 by Benj. Hough, D. S."; of Wheatland, "Oct. 6, 1815. Surveyed by Benj. Hough, D. S."; and of Somerset, "Surveyed in 1815 by Benj. Hough, D. S." These subscriptions or certifications, copied from the manuscript volume of Field Notes in the office of the county surveyor of Hillsdale county, are in themselves almost decisive proof that all that part of the principal meridian of Michigan forming the eastern boundary of Hillsdale county was run and marked out in 1815 and probably in the month of October. Quite likely nothing more was done by the surveyors in the year 1815 than the running of the principal meridian. This may be thought of as the beginning of the public survey of the region, and in this sense the survey of the public lands

T 7 S R 6 W

Sand level. Sport Swamp remainder 2d rate.
Timber. Oak. Ash. Sugar. Beech &c Undergrowth
Briers Pasture Jany 23d 1835

North Boundary

Var 0° 05' E

West on S Boundary of Sec 36 (T 6 S. R. 6 W)
18.68 W Oak 24 in
21.50 Enter Swamp
40.00 Set gr. Sec Post
W Oak 8 N 70 E 58
Maple 6 S 28 W 27
66.81 Leave Swamp — an Elm 24 in
80.00 Set Post Cor Sec 35 & 36 (T 6 S R 6 W)
W Oak 12 N 56 W 41
Beech 7 N 77 E 66
Sand level Sport Swamp remainder timbered with Oak. Beech. Sugar. Ash. Elm &c Undergth Spice
Soil 2d rate

West on S Boundary of Sec 35 T 6 S R 6 W)
24.50 B Ash 24 in
40.00 Set gr Sec. Post
B. Ash 12 N 63 W 8
Beech 8 N 83 E 27
57.44 Sugar 14
72.00 Enter Marsh
79.00 Leave "
80.00 Set Post Cor Sec 34 & 35 (T 6 S R 6 W)
B Ash 8 N 33 E 52
Beech 8 N 42 W 18
Sand rolling 2d rate. Timber. Oak Beech. Sugar. Elm. Lynn &c. Undergth Spice—

of Michigan may be said to have begun in 1815. In the stricter sense, the survey did not begin until the surveyors actually began to lay off townships, and this probably did not commence until 1816.

But while the eastern boundaries of Hillsdale's eastern range of townships were all run in 1815, none of the other boundaries of those townships nor any boundary of any other township was run until in 1823. Then in 1823, 1824 and 1825 the country which now forms the area of Hillsdale county was marked off by the United States surveyors into six-mile square townships in ranges west of the meridian and south of the base line, and designated accordingly. In the Field Notes of Hillsdale County over the date, "Feb. 3, 1825," and over the name, "John Mullett, D. S.", stands a note which shows that on that day the surveyors touched territory that is now Branch county. That note is this: "set post cor. T 5 & 6 S, Rs 4 & 5 W." This was the post now marking the common corner of the two townships in Hillsdale now known as Litchfield and Allen, and the two in Branch, now known as Butler and Quincy.

We thus see that in working westward from the principal meridian, the surveyors reached what was to become Branch county land on the 3d of February, 1825, or a week or ten days before. We have already noted that the earliest date of a day's survey entered in the Branch County Book of Field Notes was January 23, 1825. A photographic fac-simile of the page on which this date stands is inserted in this volume, it being perhaps a representation of the oldest official document originating within our county. The surveyor who signed his name to these field notes and entered this earliest date appears to have been William Brookfield. The latest date given in the volume of Field Notes is June 12, 1820. The time during which the United States surveyors were occupied in the survey of our county lands was about four and a half years.

The men who, during these four and a half years of 1825 to 1829, actually went over the land of Branch county as United States surveyors were John Mullett, Robert Clarke, Jr., William Brookfield, and Orange Risdon. The original "field notes" or records which they made of their surveys are to the people of Branch county without question the most important documents in existence. A few statements as to the history of these "notes" will be of interest to those who see the important things in a county's life even though they may not be conspicuous. At the close of each day, these men wrote off in small blank books the records of the lines they had run, their direction, the exact distance measured, the posts they had set, and the trees or other objects they had marked to indicate the location of their lines. The original note books written out by these surveyors were deposited with the land commissioner of the state after its organization. They are now in the office of the commissioner in Lansing. In November, 1905, the present writer called at the rooms of the state land office in the capitol at Lansing, and at his request the land commissioner, William H. Rose, kindly put the original note books of Branch county as written up by the United States surveyors into his hands for examination there. These

books are in general about four inches wide, six inches long, and about a quarter of an inch thick, and contain about thirty leaves. Each book contains commonly the records of the survey of one township, that is, of the lines which were run to form the boundaries of the township itself, and its sections, and quarter-sections. With an eager interest the writer took in his hand the book containing the Field Notes of T 5 S, R 5 W, now the township of Butler, the features of which may serve as an example of the entire set. The book contains thirty-two leaves. On the first page is a map of the township, with its sections numbered from 1 to 36, and with its streams and some other topographical features indicated. Underneath the map is written, "Recorded S. Morrison," which is understood to mean, that the notes of this book have been copied into books of record in the United States Land Office in Washington, and that the fact and the correctness of the recorded copy were certified to by S. Morrison. The pages of this particular little book are not numbered. On the leaf following that having the map, the notes, written in ink, begin. Apparently the notes were made during the day or at the close of each day's work, and when a day's work was done and the notes of it were written out, the date of the day was appended to them. The first date thus written is "Oct. 30," but the year is not written; then follow notes and dates consecutively until "Nov. 7," implying that the surveyors worked nine days in succession in going through the timbered lands and swamps and streams and openings of Butler township as they were in 1825, one of which days must of course have been Sunday. Thirteen dates in all are entered in the notes, the last being "Nov. 13," all without the year. On the last page, however, stands this entry, "Certified this 21st day of January, 1826. Robert Clark, Jr., Dep. Sur."

The "field notes" in these original small note books of the U. S. deputy surveyors were afterward copied into books of record in Washington, as was illustrated above in the case of the original book of Robert Clark, Jr., containing the notes of Butler township. When the survey of the entire state was completed, the original books themselves were given into the possession of the state land commissioner in Lansing. The survey was finished in 1857, and May 11th of that year the originals were deposited with the commissioner.

The records contained in these note books have been very important in the life of the county from its beginning continuously. They are the ultimate authority of the county surveyor in determining the boundaries of townships and of farms owned and bought and sold. While these books in Lansing were the only legal records of these surveys, the people of the county were obliged to obtain certified copies of the records from Lansing when needed. It would seem that this was done until 1871. At present the county surveyor of Branch county has in his official possession in one large book a copy of all the field notes contained in the small note books as made by the U. S. surveyors in surveying the entire area of the county. This book is the official "Field Notes" of the county. At the close of the notes, on page 579, stands the written certification of E. H. Parker,

deputy commissioner in the land office at Lansing, with the date of March 22, 1871, that these notes are a correct and complete copy of the originals. There exists only one other copy of these notes, it is believed, and this copy is now in possession of Mr. Ianthus D. Miner, a resident of Coldwater. Mr. Miner obtained this copy from Dr. John H. Bennett, who had it made from the county's book.

The act by which our county was created and its boundaries named described its eastern and western boundaries, as we have seen, by lines between "ranges," and its northern boundary by "the line between townships 4 and 5 south of the base line." Its southern boundary, however, was described in different terms, namely, "the boundary line between this territory and the state of Indiana." The year of this act was 1829, and it recognizes the boundary of Indiana as already established. The boundaries of states are determined by Congress. The act authorizing the formation of the state of Indiana and naming its boundaries was approved by the president April 19, 1816. The state by this act was to be bounded on the north "by an east and west line drawn through a point ten miles north of the southern extreme of Lake Michigan," and extending from that point on Lake Michigan to the north and south line forming the western boundary of Ohio. This is the first time that this line appears in any official acts of the national or state governments. The people within the boundaries named responded to the enabling act of Congress by electing representatives who were to meet in convention at Corydon, June 10, 1816. The convention was in session from June 10 to 29. It accepted the boundary proposed by the enabling act, and December 11th of the same year the state of Indiana was admitted into the Union with its northern land boundary a line drawn as described, from a point on Lake Michigan straight east until it meets the western boundary of Ohio extended northward. This northern boundary of Indiana, thus established in 1816, remained unchanged from that time on. It became consequently a line to be recognized by the U. S. surveyors in their survey of the public lands and their laying out these lands into townships from certain meridians and base lines. Some nine years before any of the land now forming Branch county had been touched by the U. S. surveyors this northern boundary of Indiana had been authoritatively proclaimed on paper, though the boundary was not actually run by surveyors until 1827 and 1828. Moreover, when the United States surveyors began laying off the public lands of the Indiana country into rectangular townships, they did it from another meridian and another base line, and when the year 1816 determined the northern boundary of the state of Indiana, it determined also the southern limit of the country to be laid off into townships from Michigan's meridian and base line. Hence, when in working south from our base line in laying off their six-mile square townships, the surveyors came to the Indiana line, they had reached the limit of land to be made into townships from the Michigan base line and meridian.

It is to be borne in mind that the U. S. survey of the land that became Branch county was made after Indiana had become a state in 1816, and

while Michigan was a territory, and that the creation and naming of the boundaries of our county was an act of our territorial authorities in 1829. The southern boundaries of all the counties in Michigan's southern tier are coincident of course with the boundary lines between the state and the two states south of it, Indiana and Ohio. The history of these state lines is the history in general of the county boundaries. We have given in brief the history of the Indiana state line and of its particular connection with Branch county. Branch is the easternmost of the four counties having the Indiana line, a due east and west line, as their entire southern boundary. Hillsdale county has about one mile of this line in its boundary, which then follows the Indiana boundary south about two miles, when it reaches the Ohio line at its starting point eastward. But the northern boundary of Ohio is not exactly a due east and west line, as a careful look at any accurate map of Ohio and Michigan will disclose, and the same is true of course of the southern boundary of Michigan and of all the counties bordering upon Ohio. These state lines have a long, large and interesting history, and this is especially true of the one between Ohio and Michigan. But Branch county does not touch Ohio even at its corner, and it must suffice for a history of this county to merely indicate the movement in men's thought and the chief events which took place in the course of the settlement of the Ohio and Indiana state boundaries on the north.

People's thought relating to these boundary lines found its first formal legislative expression in that great regulative document, "The Ordinance of 1787 for the Government of the Northwest Territory." Article 5 of this ordinance named the eastern, southern and western boundaries of what became Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, and then said: "If Congress shall find it hereafter expedient, they shall have authority to establish one or two states in that part of said territory which lies north of an east and west line drawn through the southerly bend or extreme of Lake Michigan." May 7, 1800, Congress made the eastern part of our peninsula a part of the Northwest Territory along with what is now Ohio, while the western part was included in Indiana territory. The country now forming Branch county belongs to this western part along with what is now the state of Indiana. April 30, 1802, Congress passed an enabling act, according to which the people within certain boundaries might form a state to be called Ohio. The northern boundary of the new state was to be the east and west line of the Ordinance of 1787, running east from the western boundary named for it. The western boundary named was what it is today, and as this line lies a short distance east of Branch county's territory, Ohio's boundary lines formed no actual part of Branch county's boundaries that were to be. Uncertainty arose in the minds of the Ohio people, when their convention came to consider the enabling act, as to where the line running due east from "the southerly bend or extreme of Lake Michigan" would strike Lake Erie. Notwithstanding this uncertainty and a proviso adopted by the convention to meet it, Congress admitted Ohio as a state, February 19, 1803, with the due east and west line of the ordinance as its prescribed constitutional bound-


LAKE MICH.
LAKE HURON
MICHIGAN
DETROIT
St. Clair
St. Joseph R.
MONROE
TOLEDO
LAKE ERIE
HARRIS LINE
ORDINANCE LINE
MAUMEE R.
PERRYSBURG
INDIANA
OHIO
Wabash R.
Miami R.
Pennsylvania line

ary. But the uncertainty remained, and immediately began to produce trouble between the state and the people of the territory of Michigan.

The dispute over the exact location of this boundary line lasted from 1803 to 1837, the year in which Michigan was admitted to the Union. January 26 of that year the act of Congress admitting Michigan, with the constitution which had been adopted for it, was approved by Andrew Jackson as president. That constitution declared definitely what the southern boundary of Michigan should be, and the act of Congress settled the dispute which had been troubling the people of Michigan for thirty-four years, in which the people of Branch county had become involved along with the rest. Article 1 of the constitution of our state describes its boundaries, and the portion relating to the line between it and Ohio bears so many interesting marks of its history that we quote it: "Commencing at a point on the eastern boundary line of the state of Indiana, where a direct line drawn from the southern extremity of Lake Michigan to the most northerly cape of the Maumee bay shall intersect the same—said point being the northwest corner of the state of Ohio, as established by the act of Congress, entitled 'An act to establish the northern boundary of the state of Ohio, and to provide for the admission of the state of Michigan into the Union upon the conditions therein expressed,' approved June fifteenth, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six, thence with the said boundary line of the state of Ohio till it intersects the boundary line between the United States and Canada in Lake Erie."

This boundary line between the two states, as finally fixed, was not a due east and west line, as we have already stated. It runs a little north of east. Branch county's southern boundary has not been at all a part of that state boundary line. Our entire southern boundary is a part of Indiana's northern line, but this was defined and laid out with a reference to the same point from which the Ohio boundary line at first and finally was determined, namely, "the southern extremity of Lake Michigan." Moreover, Branch county people in 1835 took part in the so-called Toledo War, which arose in the controversy over that Ohio line.

We have already narrated the action of Congress and of the people of Indiana, by which the northern boundary of Indiana as a state was established in 1816, and made to be a line due east from Lake Michigan running ten miles north of the east and west line of the Ordinance of 1787. Through all the nearly thirty years from 1787 to 1816, the people of the Michigan peninsula had assumed that the Ordinance line east from the southern extreme of Lake Michigan was to be recognized as the boundary line of states south of them. In 1818 the authorities of Michigan territory protested that Congress had no right to include in the state of Indiana the strip of land ten miles wide north of that line. They continued to insist upon their just claims to this strip even up to the years of 1835 and 1836, when the people through their conventions were seeking admission as a state. The convention at Ann Arbor, December 14, 1836, finally agreed to the conditions set forth in the act of Congress for the admission of Michigan as a

state, namely, that Michigan should accept the boundaries claimed by Ohio and Indiana and should receive the Upper Peninsula as a compensation therefor. The congressional act of admission soon followed, and from January 26, 1837, the boundary lines therein laid down have been accepted without serious question.

Thus we have seen that the southern boundary of our county as a legally described line came into existence in 1816, that that line was described with reference to a geographical point used in the Ordinance of 1787, and that it became the boundary of our county as it now is by territorial act in 1829. But this line as the northern boundary of Indiana was not actually run and marked off until 1827 and 1828. In the former year a bill was passed by Congress providing for its being run and marked. The work was begun October 8, 1827, by Mr. E. P. Hendricks, under the authority of the surveyor general of the United States.

The four small townships of our county bordering on Indiana were not laid off by the United States surveyors until 1828, and, as appears quite plainly from the Field Notes of the county, not until after the Indiana boundary had been run and marked by Mr. Hendricks. These four are townships 8 south, of ranges 5, 6, 7 and 8 west, or what afterward became California, Kinderhook, Gilead and Noble. The Notes show naturally that the township of range 5, or California, was the first to be surveyed. Over the date and name, "April 7, 1828, Robert Clarke, Jun. D. S.," stands the following note of the east boundary of this township: "Intersected N. boundary of Indiana 30.89 west of 104th mile post. Set post." April 13th following, Mr. Clarke ran the western boundary of this township to the Indiana line and set a post at the intersection of the two. "Snowed this day three inches deep," he wrote as a beginning of our weather bureau records. April 23d he did the same for the western boundary of Kinderhook, or the eastern boundary of Gilead; April 30th, the same for the western boundary of Gilead; and May 6th, 1828, he ran and marked the western boundary of T 8 S, R 8 W, or of Noble township, and set a post, which marked the southwest corner of the county when it came into existence in 1829, and which marks it probably today.

The southern boundaries of these townships, or the southern boundary of the county, may also be described in terms of latitude, if the boundary between the two states has thus been determined and recorded, inasmuch as the former boundaries ought to be identical with the latter one or the latter ones. The 1906 edition of Lippincott's Gazetteer gives the north boundary of Indiana as "the parallel of 41 degrees, 46 minutes, north," and the south boundary of Michigan as "the parallel of 41 degrees and 42 minutes north." There seems to be a difference of four minutes between the latitude of the north boundary of Indiana and that of the south boundary of Michigan, though there is no difference among authorities as to the exact location of the one line forming the two boundaries on the surface of the ground.

The exact courses of the line referred to in the Ordinance of 1787, of the Harris line run in 1816 for the northern boundary of Ohio, and of the

line named as the northern boundary of Indiana, and becoming the southern boundary of Branch county, the exact courses of all these lines depended upon the exact location of one point, namely, the point assumed to be the southern bend or extreme of Lake Michigan. When this point was actually determined and marked by the United States surveyors I have not been able definitely to ascertain. The first actual survey of a line from this point, of which I know, was the one run in part in 1815, and which was begun anew and completed in 1816 and 1817 by a Mr. Harris, in accordance with the proviso of Ohio's state constitution. The point must have been established, therefore, as early as the surveys of 1815 and 1816, at any rate. In 1820, under the direction of President Monroe, a line was run and marked for the northern boundary of Ohio in accordance with the act of Congress of May 20, 1812, that is, due east from that point.

CHAPTER III.

TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES OF BRANCH COUNTY—THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM.

Branch county, situated as it is midway between Lake Michigan and Lake Erie, occupies the highest position in the lower tier of counties. Its average elevation is between ten hundred and eleven hundred feet above sea level.

Its surface structure is easily seen to be due to glacial action. In fact Branch county is situated upon the crest of a moraine beginning near Saginaw, Michigan, and extending southward into Indiana. The soil, rocks, hills, valleys and lakes all bear unmistakable evidence of a glacial origin. There are no mountains in Branch county, and but few conspicuous elevations. "Warner's hill," immediately south of the city of Coldwater, is the highest hill in Coldwater township, but it is a comparatively gentle slope whose elevation is, perhaps, sixty feet. Its crest extends almost east and west and finally merges itself into the surrounding country about two and one-half miles east of the state road running south of Coldwater. There are notably two other hills in the northeastern portion of Algansee township conspicuous for both height and slope. They occur one directly after the other, their elevation being about seventy feet and their slope making an angle of about fifty degrees with the horizon. These are three of the more noticeable hills in Branch county, but all of them will bear practically the same description.

Branch county owes its beauty almost entirely to its many beautiful and picturesque lakes. In tracing out its system of lakes it is natural to start with its largest, viz.: Coldwater Lake.

Coldwater Lake lies in the southeastern part of Ovid township in sections 26, 27, 34 and 35, and also sections 2 and 3 of Kinderhook township. Its extreme length from north to south is about two and one-half miles and its greatest width from east to west about two miles. An island consisting of 80 acres lies in the southeastern portion of the lake and is almost entirely within section 35.

There are three places along its shores where cottages have been built for purposes of summer resort. Sans Souci, designating the largest assembly of cottages, is directly opposite the island on the eastern shore. Crystal Beach is next in size, and is located on the eastern shore near the northern extremity of the lake. The third, Idlewild, is on the western shore facing Crystal Beach and about one-half a mile from it. The scenery at Cold-

water lake is so picturesque and attractive that many resorters from other parts of the county and from other regions spend a great part of the summer there.

The outlet of Coldwater lake starts about one-fourth of a mile south of Idlewild in section 27 of Ovid township and runs in a generally westerly direction through that section. It just cuts across the northeastern corner of section 28, and pursues a northerly course through the eastern portion of section 21 into section 16, where it changes to a northwest course and enters section 9. In section 9 it again runs straight west into section 8, where it empties into the eastern end of a small lake. At the western end of the lake it resumes its westerly course and keeps it as far as the southwest corner of section 8. At this point it receives the waters of Little lake, Lake of the Woods, and Bingham lake.

Bingham lake lies in the northwestern portion of section 30 and covers about 100 acres. The water of Bingham lake empties north into a very beautiful lake called Lake of the Woods. This lake lies mostly in section 19, but it also occupies parts of sections 20, 17 and 18. It is about 300 acres in extent. Its outlet is in the southeastern quarter of section 18. It flows north and empties into Little lake, which is about equally divided between sections 17 and 18. Little lake empties northward into the outlet stream of Coldwater lake at the point mentioned above.

This stream, which is called the Branch of the Coldwater river, now flows north through sections 7 and 6 of Ovid township into section 31 of Coldwater township, where it empties into the millpond at the Black Hawk mills. From this millpond it flows north through section 30 into section 19, where it takes a northeasterly course through the southeast portion of section 19 into section 20, emptying into the western side of South lake, which lies just west of the city of Coldwater. Into this lake the other outlet of Coldwater lake also empties.

Returning now to Coldwater lake, we will speak of the two lakes, Mud lake and Bartholomew lake, whose waters flow into it.

Long lake is situated almost entirely in section 23 of Ovid township, lying diagonally across it. One peculiar feature of this lake is its great depth. Of several people who have attempted to sound its depths each claims to have been unable to reach bottom. The shore on almost all sides plunges down almost perpendicularly. It is almost as if an earthquake had opened up a great deep fissure which had afterward filled up with water. Long lake occupies also small portions of sections 14 and 13. In the southwest corner of the latter section Long lake receives the water of Mud lake, also in section 13.

Between Mud lake and Bartholomew lake, a distance of perhaps half a mile, there is a natural watershed, dividing the two chains of lakes forming the two sources of the two streams, the Coldwater river and its branch, which unite west of Coldwater. Some years ago a channel was cut through this watershed, when it was found that the waters of Bartholomew and of the lakes north of it would flow south into Mud lake. The channel at this

point was afterwards closed. An account of this channel is given elsewhere in this work.

Bartholomew lake lies in the central portion of section 7 of Algansee township and empties by a channel into Middle lake, lying for the most part in sections 7 and 5 of Algansee township. A channel connects Middle lake with Marble lake, a comparatively large body of water, about half the size of Coldwater lake and located in sections 4 and 5 of Algansee township and sections 32, 33, 28, 29 and 21 of Quincy township. Cedar Point on the eastern shore of the lake in section 33 is the location of a summer resort of increasing popularity. A small but exceedingly picturesque lake in the northwestern corner of section 9 empties into Marble lake. This lake is also very deep, no bottom having as yet been found, although it has been sounded with more than 300 feet of line. It is called Hanchett lake.

Marble lake has two outlets, the one leaving the lake almost on the north line of section 32 at the middle point, the other in the northeastern quarter of section 29. The former flows northwest through the southwest corner of section 30, where it turns to the northeast back into section 29 again. The latter flows west, uniting with the first branch in the northwest corner of section 29. From here the stream is called the Coldwater river, and flows northwest through section 20 into section 19, where it pursues a westerly course into section 24 of Coldwater township. Immediately over the border line its course is changed to the southwest, running into section 25. From here the stream runs approximately west through the northwest part of section 26. It leaves this section, entering the southeast corner of the city of Coldwater, through which it flows in a west-northwesterly direction.

The stream through the city alternately divides and unites four times, finally entering South lake west of the city in two separate places. It is for the most part shallow, deepening only where it has been dammed.

From South lake the water flows into a channel (natural, but dredged out by the Wolverine Cement Co. in 1905 and 1906) running due north into section 17, where it empties into North lake. From North lake through what is practically a continuation of the same lake the current passes into McCrea's lake and then into Randall's lake in section 5. From here through what is known as "The Narrows" the current flows into Morrison's lake, which occupies about one-half of section 32 of Girard township. Resorters have also built a few cottages on the eastern edge of this lake, which are known as Templar Beach.

At its northwestern portion Morrison's lake sends its water into an outlet, which runs a short distance north, then makes a bend eastward and with another northward turn expands into something of a lake, situated in section 29. From this the Coldwater River again takes up its course as a stream considerably larger than before it entered South lake. Its course is a meandering one, its general direction being westerly through sections 29 and 30 of Girard township into sction 25 of Union township, where it flows into the Hodunk millpond. Pursuing a westerly course on the boundary

line of sections 24 and 25 it widens considerably in a northerly direction in section 23. Soon after leaving the Hodunk millpond it receives the waters of Hog creek, which serves as the outlet of Vincent lake in section 4 of Girard township and also of a few minor lakes. In section 23 the Coldwater river narrows again and takes a northwesterly direction through sections 23 and 22 into section 15 of Union township; here it runs due north through sections 15 and 10 to section 3, where it turns abruptly to the west into section 4. Here it again turns to the north and then west into Union City, where it receives the waters of another small stream from Calhoun county. From here on the stream is known as the St. Joseph river.

The St. Joseph river now flows west through Union township into section 12 of Sherwood township. From here it pursues a generally southwest direction through Sherwood township into the northwest section of Matteson township. After only about a mile in this township it leaves Branch and enters St. Joseph county. In section 21 of Sherwood township the St. Joseph receives the waters of the outlet of Sherwood lake and several minor lakes near it. This stream also drains Haven lake and two smaller lakes and also Blossom lake in sections 31 and 30.

To summarize, it is seen that the St. Joseph river has two sources, both in Branch county and within a few miles of each other, viz.: Coldwater lake through the branch of the Coldwater river, and Marble lake through the Coldwater river; west of Coldwater both streams unite and continue their way through the chain of lakes to Union City. This system takes in nearly all the lakes of Branch county. The remaining lakes empty into minor streams and creeks.

South of Coldwater lake in Kinderhook township, between Silver lake and Crooked lake, there is a natural watershed. As we have seen, the Coldwater lake system flows north. Silver lake of section 25, Kinderhook township, and Fish lake of section 14 of the same township empty southeast into Indiana. Crooked lake of section 8, Pleasant lake of section 17, and Lavine lake of sections 18 and 20 of Kinderhook township are distant from Silver lake only by a mile or two on the other side of the divide and have Prairie river flowing west as their outlet.

Matteson lake of section 23, Matteson township, empties west into Little Swan creek.

The numerous marshes which accompany such an abundant supply of lakes have been for the most part drained and turned into tillable land. The rainfall supplying these lakes is between 60 and 70 inches annually, the greater portion falling in the months of April, May and June.

The soil of Branch county is very fertile, and except in a few places not stony.

The mineral wealth of Branch county, except for the marl occurring in nearly all the lake bottoms, which, mixed with clay, is used in the manufacture of cement, is *nil.*

In general Branch county is a prairie pitted here and there by prehistoric

glacial action and these pits are now filled with water forming the beautiful and extensive lake system we have described.

The Drainage System.

In Branch county in the year of this writing there are in round numbers four hundred public drains, approximating a total length of one thousand miles. The four townships of Algansee, Bronson, Bethel and Butler, which have received the greatest benefits from this system, have had their land valuations nearly doubled. Since 1898 an average of about $30,000 has been expended each year on this department of public works. Although under the direction of a county drain commissioner, an officer elected each two years by the board of supervisors, these improvements are, in a very important sense, not "public works." The cost of every drain is assessed entirely on the area benefited, not on the county or township, and the enterprise is thus one of concern and expense to the group of individuals who receive the varying benefits. But in viewing the system as a whole, and its effects on the county, the conclusion is easily and inevitably reached that the drainage work done during the last fifty years has actually *created* wealth to the aggregate of millions of dollars. One strikiing illustration will suffice. For years a large portion of the township of Bronson was impracticable for agriculture because of its low, swampy nature. About twenty years ago a community of Polish people settled there, bought the swamp lands in small lots, instituted a proper system of drainage, and now own some of the most productive farm lands in the county and have nearly doubled the valuation of the township.

Drainage began in a limited way during pioneer times. The settlers in the valleys of the many sluggish water courses were compelled to ditch channels to carry off the water that otherwise would have stood for a large part of the year on the arable land. The clearing away of the timber and brush and the breaking up of the soil and consequent destruction of the grassy turf that had become matted through centuries of growth, all contributed to more effective drainage. To get rid of the excess of surface water was a live question sixty and seventy years ago. In fact, it demanded partial solution at once. But the means already indicated were so far effective that the greater portion of the lands became available at an early date, without any general system of co-operation.

The first state law on the subject of drainage was passed in 1856. This act created a drain commissioner for each township, who should have jurisdiction over all the drains entirely within his township; while one county drain commissioner exercised supervision over the drains in which two or more townships were concerned. This created an unwieldy system. Seventeen men, with varying views as to the usefulness and practicability of drainage work, and few if any possessed of the engineering skill needed in such construction, formed a body without the concentrated ability needed in sci-

entific drain-making. Nevertheless, the sum total of their work reclaimed or benefited thousands of acres in the county.

In June, 1897, an act of the legislature took effect abolishing the office of township drain commissioner, and put all the drains of the county under the jurisdiction of the county drain commissioner. It further provided that the new county commissioner should collate and systematize the drainage records, which hitherto had been very imperfectly kept by the township commissioners. This task of recording, alone, has consumed a large part of the commissioner's time, and it is due to the present commissioner, D. E. Weage, to state that the records and plats belonging to this branch of the county's business are thoroughly well made and arranged. Mr. Weage has been commissioner the greater part of the time since the office was created, and it has been under the new law that the county's drainage has, in the main, become systematic and scientific.

It has been thought well to present a brief account of the important features of the drainage work in the various townships of the county. Butler township, which is one of the four that have received greatest benefit from the work, has forty-five public drains wholly or partly within its borders. The land of this township is largely a clay subsoil, originally covered with heavy timber, and hence lacking, over a great portion, in natural drainage. More land has been reclaimed in this township than in any other. The most important drain is known as the Warren Brook ditch, which crosses the township from east to west, almost centrally over the area between Hog creek and Tekonsha creek. This drain was constructed in the seventies. Another drain, crossing the northeast corner of the township, from Hillsdale county into Calhoun, will, when completed, reclaim five hundred acres and benefit about fifteen hundred acres in Butler.

Girard township, whose most conspicuous feature is the beautiful and fertile prairie in the center, has required as little artificial drainage as any township in the county. There are about twelve public drains, the two most important being a continuation of the Warren Brook and the Tekonsha Creek, which come from Butler, the former finding an outlet in Hog creek.

Union township, though originally thickly wooded, has more natural drainage than Butler. Its thirty public drains affect about five sections of its area. The largest drains are Buell No. 10, in sections 19, 30 and 31; and Union No. 36, in sections 2, 3, 11, 13, 14, and 24, affecting a large area in the northeast corner of the township.

Sherwood township is cut up with natural water courses, chiefly the St. Joseph river, and consequently its eighteen public drains are comparatively short. The Kilbourn, Blackwell and Fimple drains are the largest.

In Matteson township are twenty-five public drains, none of them extensive, No. 16 and No. 17 being the largest. Nevertheless, drainage has added materially to the agricultural wealth of this township. Along the courses of several of these drains lie large areas of peat or muck lands, and since they have become available for cultivation the owners have engaged in

mint-raising, a crop that is becoming a strong asset in the agriculture of southern Michigan, and which is best grown on the reclaimed swamp lands. With an average yield an acre of such mint land as is found along drain No. 17 will produce sixty pounds of mint oil, for which the market price is three dollars per pound, a large income from the land and labor expended.

Batavia township is crossed from northeast to southwest by the swampy valley of Mill creek. The principal drainage work to be done in this town is the straightening and dredging of this sluggish stream, some work having already been done. Altogether Batavia has thirty-three drains, the largest being county drain No. 5, in sections 6, 7, 17, 20.

In Coldwater township are twenty-three drains. The most important are drain No. 15, Benton Pond and Williams No. 28. These three especially concern the city of Coldwater. Benton Pond was constructed to take the storm sewerage from the second ward, while No. 15 and No. 28 were also constructed mainly for the city. The city is at the bottom of a watershed of about five square miles extending east into Quincy township. In freshet seasons the drainage from this area not infrequently spread over the prairie and caused inundations in the city. The municipality therefore constructed a drain along its eastern border to divert this water, in 1904, and after it had proved ineffective against a recurrence of the flood, the county took charge of the drain and improved it and made it county drain No. 15.

Quincy township has thirty-four drains, the largest being No. 8, which was laid out in 1861, but did not become fully effective until two years ago, when, after the expenditure of ten thousand dollars, it drained and reclaimed a large amount of land in the township.

An interesting bit of history may be told in connection with Quincy drainage. In 1878 was formed the "Quincy Chain Lake Channel Company," the president of which was James Donovan of Quincy, and the secretary and treasurer was R. W. Berry. These men and their associates proposed to dredge out a navigable channel connecting the chain of lakes in Quincy, Algansee and Ovid townships, so as to afford a continuous water way from Marble lake to Coldwater lake; in other words, to connect the headwaters of both branches of the Coldwater river, the east branch of that stream having its origin in Marble lake, and the west branch rising from Coldwater lake. The purpose of the channel company was to make a continuous water course of some twenty miles' length, affording magnificent fishing and pleasure resorts. The enterprise was begun with much popular enthusiasm and the channel was actually dredged out and completed according to program.

About that time it was discovered that the surface of Marble lake was eight inches higher than that of Coldwater lake. It had previously been contended that the lake were of equal level, and that the connecting channel would have no effect on the flow of the water though their natural outlets. But as a matter of fact, Marble lake being the higher of the two, and the new channel affording a freer escape for the waters than the natural river bed, the result would have been for Marble lake to empty its waters through the chain

of lakes and thence by way of the west branch of the Coldwater river, while the east branch of the river would receive a greatly diminished supply and might eventually become entirely dry.

As is known, the Quincy branch of the Coldwater supplied the W. A. Coombs mills at Coldwater with power. As soon as he saw that the operations of the Channel Company would threaten his water supply, Mr. Coombs secured an injunction against Mr. Donovan and his associates preventing them from diverting the waters of Marble lake from its former outlet. The courts upheld this injunction and the Channel Company was compelled to fill up part of the channel, effectually preventing them from carrying out the broad plan they had contemplated.

Algansee township has thirty-seven drains. Most important of these, and the largest in Branch county, is the Pridgeon and Warner drain, which was completed in 1905 at a cost of twenty thousand dollars. This ditch also drains a large portion of California township.

In Ovid township are eighteen drains. The largest is the Betts drain, which was dug in 1901, its course lying in sections 6, 7, 8, 18, 19, 29, 30, 32. All of section 29, as well as portions of several other sections, was long known as "Grass Lake," and the land was sold again and again for taxes, being totally unfit for use. The old drain No. 7, which passed through it, did little to reclaim the land. Since the completion of the Betts drain practically all this submerged land has been reclaimed.

Bethel township has for years known the value of drains. Elias C. Tozier now deceased, was township drain commissioner for about twenty-five years, laid out most of the drains during his term of service, and the results of his careful and energetic work make his name deserving of mention in this connection. Bethel now has thirty-six drains, all of about equal importance and size, running over from one to three sections.

Bronson township has thirty-two drains, the largest being county drain No. 10, built in 1861 and running through sections 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 23 and 29.

Noble township has not required much artificial drainage. There are eleven drains, Blosser drain and Noble drains No. 4 and No. 5 being the largest.

In Gilead township a large acreage in the central portion had little value until it was cleared and drained. Lang's drain, running through this section from Pleasant lake, has lowered the waters to such an extent that at the present time the north shore line of that lake has receded south of the state line. Drain No. 39 is also a large drain. There are seventeen public ditches in the township.

Kinderhook township has ten drains. Kinderhook No. 4, which is the largest, passes from the center of the town out through the lakes into Gilead.

California township has fifteen drains, the most important being the Pridgeon and Warner drain already mentioned in connection with Algansee.

CHAPTER IV.

THE INDIANS AND THE EARLY SETTLERS' LIFE WITH THEM.

The first settlers of Branch county had Indians as their neighbors, and for several years after settlement began there were more red men than whites in the county. In the work of development and civilization the Indians had no part; in fact they were an adverse element which had to be removed before white men could proceed to build homes, make farms and lay the foundation of business and institutions. Happily for the history of Branch county, the Indians were never hostile to the degree that was true of Indians in other parts of the country, notably in the far west. The representatives of the government were able to conciliate them and generally treated them fairly, and therefore this history can recount no revengeful outbreaks nor pitched battles between the two races. It seems necessary in a general way to describe the people who lived here before the coming of the whites, the manner of disposition of their lands and their removal to the west, and what relations subsisted between the natives and the settlers.

The Indians whom the pioneers to Branch county encountered were in nearly every case Potawatomis, an Algonquian tribe that originally were found by the whites in the vicinity of Green Bay, Wisconsin. But about 1670, being harassed by hostile tribes, they were moving south, and by the close of the seventeenth century had established themselves on Milwaukee river, at Chicago, and on the St. Joseph river, mostly in territory that had previously been held by the Miami. By the beginning of the nineteenth century they were in possession of the country around the head of Lake Michigan, from Milwaukee river in Wisconsin, to Grand river in Michigan, extending southwest over a large part of Illinois, east across Michigan to Lake Erie, and south in Indiana to the Wabash and as far down as Pine creek. Within this territory they had about fifty villages. The principal divisions were those of St. Joseph river, Michigan, Huron river, Michigan, Wabash river, and the Potawatomis of the Prairie in Illinois and Wisconsin.

The Potawatomi sided actively with the French down to the peace of 1763. They were prominent in the rising under Pontiac, and on the breaking out of the Revolution in 1775 took arms against the United States, and continued hostilities until the treaty of Greenville in 1795. They again took up arms in the British interest in 1812, and made final treaties of peace in 1815. As the settlements rapidly pressed upon them they sold their land by piecemeal and removed beyond the Mississippi. Those who went west were settled partly in western Iowa and partly in Kansas, the former, with whom

were identified many individuals of other tribes, being known as Prairie Potawatomi, while the others were known as the Potawatomi of the Woods. In 1846 they were all united on a reservation in southern Kansas. In 1861 a large part of the tribe took lands in severalty and became known as citizen Potawatomis, but in 1868 they again removed to a tract in the Indian Territory, where they now are. The others are still in Kansas, while a considerable body, part of the Prairie band, are still in Wisconsin, and another band, the Potawatomi of the Huron, are in lower Michigan. According to the census of 1820 there were 3,400 Potawatomis in the United States. In 1884 those in the United States were reported to number 1,332, distributed as follows: Citizen Potawatomi in the Indian Territory, 550; in Kansas, 430; Prairie band in Wisconsin, 280; and Potawatomi of Huron, in Calhoun county, Mich., 72. A few besides these are scattered through their ancient territory and at various other points. The numbers in the United States in 1903, according to the official report were as follows: Prairie band in Kansas, 602; Potawatomi of Huron, 78; Citizen Potawatomi in Oklahoma, 1,686.

The Indians of this tribe are described in the early notices as the "most docile and affectionate toward the French of all the savages of the west." They were also more friendly disposed toward Christianity, besides being more humane and civilized than the other tribes. Their women were more reserved than was usual among Indians, and showed some tendency toward refinement in manners. As slaves were found among them when first visited by the whites, it is probable they were in the habit of making slaves of their captives rather than torturing and slaying them, though no positive statement on this point is on record. Polygamy was common when they were visited by the early missionaries.

These were the people whom the first settlers in Branch county found dwelling in small village groups or passing across the county over the Indian trails. But even then they were living in the county merely by sufferance of the government, for they no longer had legal claim to the land. The important treaty that affected Branch and other counties of southern Michigan was the Chicago treaty of 1821, which was negotiated at Fort Dearborn on the 29th of August by Governor Cass and Solomon Sibley with the Potawatomis, Chipewas and Ottawas, the first named being the tribe principally interested and the others signing the instrument as auxiliaries or friends. By this treaty the Indians ceded to the government a tract of land embracing nearly eight thousand square miles, containing Branch county and all those surrounding it, besides practically all of the country now designated as southwestern Michigan. As mentioned in the history of Coldwater township, five small tracts were reserved from this cession, one of them being in the center of Branch county.

On the 19th of September, 1827, a treaty was made at the Carey Mission (Niles) by Gov. Cass, the object of which was to gain the cession of a number of small Indian reservations (that in Branch county being of the number) "in order to consolidate some of the dispersed bands of the Potawatomi

tribe in the territory of Michigan, at a point removed from the road leading from Detroit to Chicago, and as far as practicable from the settlements of the whites." This last reservation was along the St. Joseph river near Niles. A few years later this last foothold of the tribe in Michigan was signed away, and the chiefs of the St. Joseph band of the Potawatomis agreed that they and their people would remove from the country in 1836. This was the result of the second treaty of Chicago, signed on September 26, 1833. There were Indians in Branch county during the greater part of the decade of the thirties. They did not willingly leave their Michigan home. When the commissioners escorted the bulk of the tribe to their new homes beyond the Mississippi, many eluded the vigilance of the officers and remained behind. Some even returned after they had reached the western reservation. The efforts at collecting the Indians had to be repeated several times, and as already mentioned, some were never taken away and their descendants are still to be found in certain localities of southern Michigan.

The Indian villages that were found in the county by the early settlers are to be mentioned in connection with the story of settlement. There was one on Coldwater prairie. When Wales Adams came along the Chicago trail in September, 1830, and stopped over night at the Bolton-Morse tavern on the east side of the prairie, he learned, to quote his own words, that "a lodge of several hundred Potawatomi Indians was encamped about one and a half miles in a northwest direction, to which place the travelers repaired. The Indians occupied their time in smoking, dancing and speech-making alternately. They were discussing the subject of their removal beyond the Mississippi." Girard prairie was also a favorite haunt of the Indians, and in historical times a small village existed in Kinderhook township.

The relations of the Indians and the settlers were generally amicable. Then, as now, vagrancy was a notable characteristic of Indian nature, and it was chiefly petty stealing and meddling that made the whites apprehensive of such neighbors. Drunkenness was the source of most of the crime, and this coupled with natural shiftlessness made the Indian a generally unwelcome though not dangerous visitor.

The presence of the Indians actuated the establishment of the first mercantile businesses in Branch county. Roland Root, the father of E. R. Root of Coldwater, is said to have had a trading post on the banks of the Coldwater river west of present Coldwater, and there trafficked with both the Indians and the whites. Loren Marsh in 1831 had established a trading post in the eastern part of Coldwater township, and later moved to a location west of the Coldwater river, where he carried on his trade with the Indians over a large circuit.

So often in the course of this history will Indian trails of Branch county be referred to as affecting settlement, that credit should be given at this point for what was practically the only public improvement which may be said to have originated with the Indian. The early settlers were familiar with several trails, which they used until straight roads could be laid

out, and in some cases the trail bed became the route and foundation of the highway; the conspicuous example of this being the Chicago road.

As late as 1840 Indians were not uncommon in Branch county. They caused the settlers much annoyance, and the latter at every opportunity urged their removal from the country to which they had no longer any legal right. The civil authorities finally co-operated with the military of the United States, and a detachment of troops under Gen. Brady of Detroit was sent to gather up and take away all the Indians who still remained in Branch and surrounding counties. Even then some escaped the forced exile, but with the departure of that band from the home of their ancestors the Indian ceased to be a considerable factor in the life of Branch county.

CHAPTER V.

NUMBER, NATURE AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE COUNTY'S PEOPLE.

The first enumeration of the people of Branch county as a county by itself took place in 1837. At least this is the year of the first census of which there now remains any particular record. The number of white men, women and children then making their home within the county's boundaries was 4,016. This census was taken by the state government a few months after the admission of the state into the Union. No Indians were included in this census, and no Indians not taxed have been included in any census of the county taken either by the state or national government.

There was, however, one enumeration, and probably two, previous to 1837, of the people residing within our county's area. The year of the first settlement of a white man in this area was 1828, the year before the county was created and named. The first regular decennial census of the United States after the white man had thus begun to live within our limits came in 1830. Branch was not yet separately organized as a county, but for all judicial purposes was attached to St. Joseph county, and along with "Calhoun and Eaton, and all the country lying north of the county of Eaton," formed the township of Green. The population of St. Joseph county is given in the census of 1830 by four subdivisions of the county, the second of which is "Green and Flowerfield." The total population of Green and Flowerfield is given as 110, 71 males and 39 females. Green and Flowerfield were the westernmost of the four subdivisions of St. Joseph county, and the total of 110 inhabitants was the smallest of the four, "Sherman" having 205, the "Township of Brady" 391, and "White Pigeon" 607. Within the boundaries of our Branch county itself there were, it can be said with certainty, not a hundred people in the year 1830, and probably not more than fifty. But here in this census, we see at any rate at this time towards fifty people living within our area, the fountain head or nucleus of all our history.

In 1834 a census of the Territory of Michigan was taken by order of the Legislative Council in preparation for the admission of the territory as a state. The act provided that the enumeration be taken by the sheriffs of the counties "between the second Monday of October and the first Monday of November," and that returns be made to the county clerks and to the territorial secretary. The county had been organized for its own action separate from St. Joseph, March 1, 1833. William McCarty had been elected sheriff in April. But there is no record now in the county clerk's office of any census taken in this county in that year, nor are there any records of

such census of this county in the state library or in the archives of the Department of State in Lansing. The total population of Michigan territory by that census is known, but not that of Branch county.

In starting with the first enumeration of our county's inhabitants, and making our first note of the increase of population, we have, therefore, to think of the period of seven years from 1830 to 1837. Inferring the number to have been fifty in 1830, as we have done, 1837 shows the number to have reached 4,016. All the counties adjoining us had in 1837 a larger population than we. Hillsdale to the east of us had 4,749; Calhoun on the north, 7,959; and St. Joseph and Cass, with areas exactly equal to ours, had 6,337 and 5,296. Today, according to the census of 1904, our population considerably exceeds that of St. Joseph and of Cass.

In 1840, three years after the first state census, another national census was taken and in 1845 the second state census. In 1850 a new constitution was adopted, which required the legislature to "provide by law for an enumeration of the inhabitants in the year eighteen hundred and fifty-four and every ten years thereafter." Accordingly, from 1850 on, a census of the county has been taken every four and six years in alternation, the work being done alternately by the national and by the state authorities. We present here in one view the population of the county at the times of these several censuses from 1837 to 1904:

1837	4,016	1870	26,227
1840	5,715	1874	25,726
1845	9,070	1880	27,941
1850	12,472	1884	27,661
1854	15,686	1890	26,791
1860	20,981	1894	26,207
1864	22,458	1900	27,811
		1904	26,397

Space will not permit us to direct attention with much particularity to the facts which appear on the face of these figures, nor to bring forward facts and causes which lie behind them. We present only a few of the more general and striking phases of the population during the seventy-four years between 1830 and 1904.

First, as to the first decade of 1830 to 1840. Inferring as we have done from the census of 1830, that the county began with fifty inhabitants in that year, we see 1837 giving it 4,016, and 1840, 5,715. This was an increase on the average of over five hundred people in each one of those first ten years. Our knowledge of the persons who were living in the county in 1831 makes it certain that by the end of that year there were thirty or forty families settled in it, and we may say that the fifty inhabitants of 1830 had increased to 150 or 200. As to the points about which they were nearly all settled, these were Bronson, Branch, Coldwater and Girard.

In May, 1832, the call for Michigan militia to aid in defending Chicago in the "Black Hawk War" put a stop almost entirely to the coming of

people, which had been growing from 1830 up to that time. People coming from the east became afraid to settle where there were any Indians. About the same time in 1832, cholera was brought from Quebec to Detroit and Chicago. Fear of cholera combined with fear of Indians to prevent emigration to southern Michigan. After May many of the stages, which had been doing a larger passenger business during the spring over the Chicago road than ever before, were taken off. The check put upon immigration into the county in 1832 by these two causes was felt through the two years following. There was increase, but it was slow. With the opening of 1835, however, the tide began to flow strong again along the Chicago road. A goodly share of prospectors and of the occupants of the white-covered emigrant wagons were attracted by the lands of Branch county. In the spring of 1836 the tide doubled its volume. It seemed to those already on the ground as if the whole country was alive with emigrants. Speculation in land and platted village lots, with visions of great profits, was a large factor in the movement. The numbers coming continued to increase through 1836, and with the opening of 1837. In the early part of 1837 Dr. Isaac P. Alger found thirty-three taverns on the Chicago road in Branch county in going from Quincy to Sturgis. But in May and June of 1837 this tide of immigration and of business inflated by "wild cat" currency reached its height, and then began rapidly to decline. By the latter part of autumn people had stopped coming. The standstill of 1832 was repeated. But the people who had been brought into the county by the three years from 1835 on, mostly remained, and the state census of 1837 took them, and found them to be 4,016, as we have seen. Probably more than three thousand of this number came into the county during the three preceding years. The three following years added only 1,699, according to the United States census of 1840, which made the population of the county 5,715.

We will next take a general view of the population of the county as to numbers during the entire time of the county's life. We note in this view, first, that the census of 1880 stands out as the high-water mark of all the census years between 1837 and 1904, that highest population being 27,941. It will be natural now to note the movement during the forty-three years preceding that year, and the twenty-four years subsequent to it.

From 1837 to 1870, or during the first thirty-three years, each census showed an increase over the one immediately before it. But four years later, or in 1874, the first decrease appears; this, however, is more than overcome in the six years following, which brings us to the high-water census of 1880. The rate of increase was very rapid from 1840 to the beginning of the Civil war in 1861. The four years of the war lowered the rate of increase, but during the six years from 1864 to 1870 the rate rose to about what it was during the six years before the war.

As to the twenty-four years since 1880, it will be a true general statement to say that the population of the county in numbers has continued at a standstill. The United States census, taken twenty years after 1880, made

a difference of only 130 between the population then, in 1900, and that of 1880, it being 130 less.

To understand the nature of the people, whose history we are writing, we must give some attention to their nationality, to the communities from which they came, to their occupations, and to their intelligence and moral and religious ideals. Very few counties in Michigan, and, indeed, in any western state, have had an American born and homogeneous population to the degree which Branch has had all through its history. We use a few facts from the census of 1880 to illustrate this statement.

By that census there were no Indians and no Chinese in the county, and only 65 colored persons. St. Joseph had 230 colored people and Cass 1,837. In its entire population of 27,941, Branch had 1,808 persons of foreign birth. This was one in fifteen, or six per cent of the total. St. Joseph county had in that year 2,554 foreign-born in its population, and its total was somewhat less than that of Branch. There is an interesting significance in the several numbers of these 1,808 foreigners coming from different foreign countries. The number born in England and Wales was the largest; it was 481. This is quite a sprinkling of fresh, genuine Englishmen among the inhabitants of the county, and those who have been residents of it have been aware that they are a perceptibly distinct element of its life. Separate from those who were born in England and Wales, the census of 1880 made enumerations of those who were born in Ireland, in Scotland, and in British America or the Dominion of Canada. It is rather surprising perhaps that a less number of persons had come into Branch county from Canada, just across the Detroit and St. Clair rivers, than had come directly from old England across the ocean, or than had come from Ireland alone. There were 276 of Branch county's people who had been born in British America, while 330 had been born in Ireland, and 481 as we have noted were natives of England and Wales. Besides these there were 46 who had been born in the land of Burns and Carnegie. Counting these all together as being in the large sense British born, they make a total of 1,133, and become by far the largest foreign-born ingredient in the county's population. But in the bearing of this fact on the homogeneous and American quality of the population as a whole, it is to be noted that all these English speaking foreigners are nearer than any other nationality to native born Americans.

Next in number to the British born component stood in 1880 those born in Germany. There were 479 of them, two less than the 481 born in England and Wales. The larger portion of the Germans have always been found in the city of Coldwater and its immediate vicinity. Since 1858 a German Lutheran congregation have held services in the city in German. Next to Coldwater city and township, Algansee is the region in which men from the land of Luther and Lessing have settled. The numbers of foreign-born in the county in 1880 from other countries were given as follows: Born in Poland, 141; in France, 9; in Sweden and Norway, 7; and in Holland, 3. The Poles of 1880, with the 141 who had been born in the Poland of Europe, were settled almost entirely by themselves in the township of

Bronson, south and west of the village. They have since then multiplied rapidly, and have been spreading out from their locality in 1880. By their industry and cheap mode of living they have saved money, have bought not a little of the land upon which they began to labor for wages, and have been steadily improving their condition in every respect. They are almost universally Roman Catholics, and now, in 1906, form a large Roman Catholic congregation with a church building in Bronson which is the largest in the village. A Polish priest resides there and conducts the church services in the Polish language and superintends a parish school in a fine, large brick school building, in which the teaching is in Polish. Our Polanders are gradually becoming assimilated to our American life, but as yet they are noticeably the most foreign and un-American portion of our county's population in physique, in language and in religion.

With only 1,808 foreign-born people in a population of 27,941, the mass of Branch county people are seen at once to be American born. But the different portions, the different states even, of the Union have always shown distinctive qualities in their people. Michigan belongs to the first or perhaps the second group of western states that were settled by migrations from the eastern states. It remains to glance at the nativity of the American-born portion of our county's people.

The census of 1880 gave the following figures as to the nativity by certain states of the inhabitants of the county at that time: born in the state, 13,873; born in New York, 6,425; in Ohio, 2,706; in Pennsylvania, 828; in Indiana, 790; in Vermont, 301; in Massachusetts, 203; in New Jersey, 143 in Wisconsin, 83. It thus appears that when the county had attained its growth as to population, almost one-half of the people were Michigan born. As to those born in other states, the figures confirm a fact generally perceived and frequently commented upon by the people of the county, that they are more largely from New York state than from any other. More than 22 per cent of the population in 1880, or nearly one in four, were born in the Empire state. If we go back a decade to the census of 1870, the fact of New York state people leading those from all other states in the early population of the county, grows more conspicuous. In that year 7,875 out of a total of 26,227 were natives of New York. This is 30 per cent, or nearly one in three. The census of 1860 made no note of the nativity of the population by counties. The events and influences which caused this main stream of the migrations from other states to flow from New York will be set forth in a future chapter, especially in the one treating of the Chicago road.

CHAPTER VI.

ROUTES OF IMMIGRATION.

THE ERIE CANAL.

In 1825 the Erie canal, after eight years in building, was opened to traffic, and the waters of Lake Erie flowed across the state of New York into the Hudson river. The dream of Henry Hudson in seeking a northwest passage up the river that bears his name was realized after more than two centuries, only instead of the spice-laden orient the new way led to the far more desirable and potentially richer American west. The land-bound commerce of the Atlantic seaboard found, in this direction, outlet to the eager west, and, borne along the same channel, the grain harvests of the inland were brought to the markets of the world. It was no uncommon thing for fifty ark-like boats, loaded with passengers and freight, to depart from the eastern terminus of the Erie canal in a single day, passing to the west at the rate of four miles an hour. While before the water was turned into the "Big Ditch" the toilsome urging of creaking wagons had not carried a fraction of the commerce that passed along this waterway.

The Erie canal not only gave a tremendous impetus to westward expansion and development, but it changed its direction. Herein lies the significance of the canal in the history of southern Michigan, including Branch county.

Before 1825 the trend of western migration had been down the Ohio valley. The great water courses were fringed with settlements when the inland country was still an unbroken wilderness. The regions bordering the riverways and great lakes were populous before a tree had been felled for a settler's cabin on the fertile prairies and woodlands of northern Indiana and southern Michigan. In proof of this witness the admission of Indiana to statehood ten years before the first settlers came to her northern tier of counties. Southern Michigan was aside from the current of emigration, and its settlement was delayed while settlers were overrunning the country to the south and the Illinois prairies.

OVERLAND ROADS.

There were no roads in southern Michigan even for several years after the completion of the Erie canal. A map of the highways of travel in the United States in the year 1825 shows a network of routes along the Ohio valley, but none north of the watershed into the great lakes which would bring emigrants within many miles of Branch county.

The homeseekers who traveled across Lake Erie to its western end would on their arrival at Detroit find one generally used road to the west. That led southwest to Monroe, up the valley of the Maumee river past Defiance, Ohio, through Fort Wayne, Indiana, and thence northwesterly around the lower end of Lake Michigan to Chicago or further west. Fort Wayne was the converging point for several other roads leading from different points along the Ohio river. The great bulk of the pioneers who settled the northern Indiana and southwest Michigan counties bordering on Lake Michigan came by way of Fort Wayne. This accounts for the more cosmopolitan character of the population of that region than is found in Branch county. Through Fort Wayne passed streams of emigrants not only from the New England states and New York and Pennsylvania, but also from Maryland, Virginia, the Carolinas and Kentucky.

It should also be mentioned that a large number of emigrants, instead of debarking at Detroit and taking the Fort Wayne route, made the entire circuit of the lakes by way of Mackinac, not beginning their journey overland until they reached the lower end of Lake Michigan. But this route also took them far from Branch county, which remained practically isolated except as a chance settler might find his way here.

Railroads at that time had not become a factor in directing and assisting emigration. In 1830 only thirty-six miles of railway were in operation in all the United States. Only two years before had the first mile of the Baltimore and Ohio been built. The decade of the twenties was prolific of railroad charters and plans, but only the beginnings were made of the railroad building which soon absorbed the energies of the nation. In fact, the part of the railroad in southern Michigan was that of development rather than settlement. When the first railroad penetrated Branch county its population was nearly fifteen thousand. The lands had been taken up, and the pioneer period was practically over when the Southern Railroad began pushing west from Lake Erie.

CHICAGO ROAD.

Such was the situation for Branch county at the completion of the Erie canal. The routes of travel were around the lakes to the north or through Fort Wayne on the south, converging a hundred miles to the west, where settlement was begun before Branch county had any inhabitants, except the Indians and some wandering hunters. What reason is to be found for the settlement, within a period of twenty years, of fifteen thousand people in this county? Pre-eminently above all other causes, the "Chicago Road."

While the stream of migration that poured forth from the western end of the Erie canal would in time have overflowed all the peninsula between Lake Erie and Lake Michigan, it was the Detroit and Chicago national road that gave it direction and caused the rapid settlement of the southern tier of counties. To this institution more than any other except the character of the settlers it brought, Branch county is indebted for the establishment of its

prosperity on the substantial basis which has endured more than two generations.

The famous thoroughfare which passes centrally through Branch county from east to west may reasonably be called an overland extension of the Erie canal. It was a national highway built to connect two important strategic points, to afford rapid transportation of military supplies and armies from the western terminus of the waterways at Detroit to Fort Dearborn on Lake Michigan. Empowered by the constitution to establish post roads, the general government designed this road as an important section of the postal route between the east and the west, and for the twenty years before the railroad came the New York-Chicago mail was carried by stage over this road. But its character as a government highway was almost lost sight of in the importance it attained as an emigrant route. The coming of the mail coach never lost novelty or ceased to be the event of the day for the people dwelling along the road, but the almost continuous line of settlers' wagons became one of the commonplaces of life at that time and attracted little attention.

In accordance with congressional legislation for the construction of a military and postal road between Detroit and Chicago, in 1825 the president was authorized to appoint commissioners to survey and mark this road. In 1827 congress appropriated twenty thousand dollars for the construction of the road. It was the original purpose to build the road in a straight line between the designated termini, but the commissioners soon found that with the money at hand they could hardly make a beginning of the undertaking on that basis. The straight course had to be abandoned, and one was adopted which, while presenting fewer engineering difficulties, was, historically, more natural and interesting.

Before civilization introduced scientific road-making, wild animals were doubtless the markers and surveyors of roads. The narrow, deep-worn and wavering path through the woods, indicating the route of the wild animal between its lair and the spring where it quenched its thrist or the spot where it sought its quarry, was the course which the Indian, and later the white man, took in going through the woods or across the prairie. Thus animals were the first road-makers, and blazed the way for their immediate successors, the roving Indians. The latter would naturally extend and connect the trails into certain long avenues of travel across the country, which they would follow in making their pilgrimages from one hunting ground to another or for their war expeditions.

Several of these trails existed in Branch county long before white man set his foot here. Most used of all was that one extending centrally across the county from west to east. This was not only a favorite route pursued by the Indians of southern Michigan, but since the war of 1812 the Indians dwelling in Illinois had been accustomed to make their annual pilgrimages along this route to Canada, where the British government paid them their annuity earned by loyalty to that government in its war against the Americans. The Detroit-Chicago Indian trail, therefore, had historic importance long before any marks of civilization had been made in Branch county.

Accordingly, when the government surveyors who sought to carry out instructions and define a military road from Detroit to Fort Dearborn, found that the appropriation for that purpose was far from adequate, they determined to follow the route that had been surveyed and marked by the animals and the Indians. Of course many of the windings of the original trail have been corrected, either when the road was made or later. But the traveler whose journey lies along this thoroughfare may say with approximate fidelity to history that the road is but an Indian trail enlarged and improved to a modern highway.

The engineers who began the work of marking this road in 1825 did not "make" the road; they merely designated its course. As late as 1829 the pioneers through this county called the road little better than an Indian trail. It was planned that the road should be one hundred feet wide, but in the actual process of construction it seemed most expedient only to cut off the trees for that width and to clear the stumps and smooth the roadway for a width seldom exceeding forty feet. From available data, it seems probable that the Chicago road was still in process of construction through Branch county as late as 1832. For James G. Corbus in that year was a contractor engaged in building a portion of the way on Bronson's prairie. And when Martin Olds, the Batavia pioneer, came along this road in 1834 the first stream over which he found a bridge was the Coldwater, the bridge at Masonville having just been completed before his arrival in June. Stages had been running, however, since 1830, so that the road must have been passable at that date or earlier.

It should be kept in mind that the Chicago road was a national highway, was constructed and maintained by appropriations from Congress. At a later date the Michigan legislature provided for numerous "State roads," several of which were built through or in Branch county, and are still known as "State roads." The third class, to which most of the roads in the county belong, are those laid out by the township highway commissioners. But both state and township roads were maintained by local taxation.

SOURCES OF EARLY SETTLERS.

One of the most interesting themes of early Branch county history is concerned with the sources which furnished the pioneer settlers. The same study will indicate in a graphic manner the combined influence of the Erie Canal and the Chicago Road in directing migration to this county. This route was the most natural one for the people of New York and the New England states to take in moving to the west. It is from New York state, indeed, that we find the bulk of the early settlers of this county to have come. While that state may not be called the first state home of all these people, it will be found that in most cases the people of Massachusetts, of Vermont, or of Connecticut, made some point in New York the first stage of their westward movement, in many instances spending several years there before proceeding to Michigan.

Samuel H. Berry, father of the Quincy pioneers among whom was the late Dr. E. G. Berry, while a native of New Hampshire, moved from that state to Pennsylvania, then to New York, and from there came to Brand county, in 1835. Saratoga county, New York, was the birthplace of Peter M. Newberry, also of Quincy, who in 1836 started from New York with the intention of settling in Ohio, but landing in Detroit came down the Chicago road to Jonesville, and then on to Quincy township, where he was one of the early settlers. Other pioneers of Quincy who came from New York were Alvarado Brown, from Orleans county; John S. Belote, from Albany in 1835; B. F. Wheat, the banker, who came from Ontario county to Lenawee county, Michigan, in 1836; Ansell Nicholls, who settled in Quincy township in 1836, was from Oswego county, New York; Chautauqua county was the starting point of William P. Arnold, who located two miles east of Coldwater along the Chicago road in 1833, and in 1839 bought a hundred acres in the present Quincy village.

The late Dr. W. B. Sprague of Coldwater came from Rochester to this county in 1835, and Syracuse was the birthplace of Alonzo Waterman, who came to Bronson in 1832 and later to Coldwater and became noted as a miller, merchant and successful business man. The Erie Canal was the route that Lorenzo D. Halsted followed in coming to this county in 1836. He drove a horse on the towpath from Albany to Buffalo, and from there worked his way on a steamer to Detroit, whence the Chicago road finally guided him to Coldwater.

Monroe county, New York, was the home of many who later became well known in Branch county. James M. Burdick walked from there to Buffalo in 1830, took a steamer to Detroit, and by the roughly marked Chicago trail reached Allen's in Hillsdale county, whence he came to Quincy in 1836. The well known horseman, Abram C. Fisk, who settled on the Chicago road just east of Coldwater, was from Monroe county, and in the next year the pioneer Harvey Haynes came from the same locality.

In 1835 came Lorenzo D. Crippen from Herkimer county, and began his career as merchant, manufacturer and public-spirited citizen of Coldwater. And in the next year James R. Wilcox, also of Coldwater township, came from Cayuga county.

Many other instances of this community of origin might be set down here, but it is sufficient to indicate the subject to the reader, who will find abundant examples of the historical phenomenon on nearly every page of the following narrative.

CHAPTER VII.

FORMATION OF TOWNSHIPS.

A map of Branch county shows sixteen civil townships blocked out four square, and laid out on the lines of the original United States government survey. Although the government surveyors blocked out the territory that became Branch county by means of the range and township lines that designate the boundaries of the present civil townships, it was more than fifteen years after the creation of Branch county before the townships were all organized and named as we know them at present. The civil townships and the townships of government survey happen to correspond in Branch county; but there is no necessary connection between the two, and in some other counties one civil township is more than an area six miles square. The civil township is created for the convenience of government, and in Michigan the legislature has almost invariably caused its boundaries to coincide with those of the United States survey, as has been the case in this county. But during the period of early settlement the population was not dense enough to warrant a civil organization in each of the sixteen surveyed townships. So it is that the map of Branch county underwent many changes up to 1846. There were townships of varying extent and form, and several whose names are practically forgotten. It will be the purpose of the following paragraphs to show how the county was divided from time to time and to describe the process of township making until the boundaries were fixed as at present.

It has been elsewhere related that Branch county, although created in 1829, did not obtain a separate county government until 1833, and that in the meantime it was attached to St. Joseph county for judicial purposes. The great area of adjoining country which for legal purposes became a part of St. Joseph county was divided into townships, and the township of which Branch county was first a part was known by the name of Green. Not only did the "Town of Green" comprise Branch county, but several other counties as well, and a vast territory not yet laid out in county form.

In the first instance, then, Branch county was only part of a township. As population increased, but before it was sufficient to warrant county organization, Branch county's area was laid off into two townships. This act was approved June 29, 1832, but was not to take effect until March 1, 1833. In the meantime the legislature provided for the organization of county government in Branch county, which was also to take effect on March 1, 1833.

Accordingly, on the date of the county's organization two townships came into existence. All of the county east of a north and south line passing through the center was called Coldwater township, from which eight townships have since been made. All the western half of the county was made into a township named Prairie River.

Less than two months later, on April 23, 1833, the following section of act of the legislature was approved:

"That the township of Prairie River in the county of Branch shall be called Green, and by the name of Green shall hereafter be known and distinguished, any law to the contrary notwithstanding."

Notwithstanding the passage of this act which revived the name of Green in such emphatic terms, the township continued to be known as Prairie River both in the supervisors' records beginning with the first meeting in October, 1833, and also, as will be seen, in the later laws affecting the partition of that township.

March 7, 1834, was the first act in the process of division of these two larger townships. By a law approved on that date the north tier of surveyed townships, technically known as "townships 5 south, in ranges 5, 6, 7 and 8 west," was created a township by name of Girard. This reduced the area of the other two townships, and made one long narrow township and two relatively square ones.

Two years passed before the next change. By act approved March 23, 1836, three new civil townships were carved from the older ones. Coldwater township was cut in two by the north and south line between ranges five and six, and the east half was called Quincy, comprising the present townships of Quincy, Algansee and California.

At the same time Prairie River was reduced by almost half. The following is the law: "All that portion of the county of Branch designated by the United States survey as townships six and seven south, of range seven west, be and the same is hereby set off and organized into a separate township by the name of Batavia, and the first township meeting therein shall be held at the dwelling house of William Reynolds in said township."

Original Batavia was thus twice as large as now, and it so remained for nearly a year.

Also in March, 1836, Girard was cut in half, and the two surveyed townships on the west were set off by the name of Sherwood. In 1837, the year of Michigan's admission to the Union, Branch county had six townships—on the north were Girard and Sherwood, and from east to west they were Quincy, Coldwater, Batavia and Prairie River, all of rectangular shape except Prairie River, from the bottom of which projected eastward the fractional township that soon became Gilead.

The act of the legislature approved March 11, 1837, gave five more civil townships to Branch county. Sherwood was divided, and the east half was called Union. The previous section of the same act organized the township of Ovid, bounding it so as to include the present Kinderhook. Ovid being set off from Coldwater, the latter was accordingly left with its present

boundaries and must be considered the first township in Branch county to be reduced to the regular area of the government township.

At this date the southern half of Batavia township was set off under the name of the "Township of Elizabeth." After two years the "Town of Elizabeth" became the "Town of Bethel" by act of the legislature of 1838-39, and as Bethel it has since been known to history.

The next section of this act of March 11, 1837, brings into existence the township of Gilead. Up to that date the members of Bishop Chase's colony and the other settlers of fractional township eight in range seven had been citizens of Prairie River township. Gilead was the first of the four fractional townships to obtain separate town government, its rapid settlement entitling it to this privilege as soon as any of the full townships.

With the approval of the act of March 11, 1837, the township of Prairie River ceased to be a name. Originally comprising the west half of the county, it had been reduced in size, first by the formation of Girard, then Batavia, then Gilead, and now all that remained, in the range south of Sherwood, was given the name of Bronson. The section providing for this change is worth quoting for several historical points contained. It reads: "All that portion of the county of Branch known as the township of Prairie River, and the village in said township by the name of York, shall, on and after the first Monday of April, next, be known and designated by the name of Bronson."

The next act dealing with Branch county townships was approved March 6, 1838. On that date Matteson township was formed from Bronson, while in the northeast corner of the county the double area of Girard was halved and the eastern part was named Butler.

After all these divisions Quincy remained the largest township in the county. But on April 2, 1838, the Quincy as we know it to-day came into existence, and the block of territory south of it to the state line was named Algansee.

The county now had thirteen townships. It was nearly four years later, on February 16, 1842, when Kinderhook was set off from Ovid. Noble was named and permitted to form its own government apart from Bronson on March 19, 1845. Last of all the sixteen townships to come into being, California was separated from Algansee on March 25, 1846. It was not until these respective dates, of course, that Ovid, Bronson and Algansee assumed the area which each now has.

For the past sixty years there has been no further change of civil boundaries if we except the formation, in 1861, of the City of Coldwater within the area of Coldwater township. Three names that once designated areas in this county have disappeared, namely, Green, Prairie River and Elizabeth, and references to these names and the territory they represented would be the only source of confusion to the present generation in reading the records of the past.

CHAPTER VIII.

SETTLEMENT AND BEGINNINGS.

BRONSON.

The movement of settlers along the Chicago road began in the last two years of the twenties. A large proportion, perhaps, of those who went through this county were prospectors for homesteads; that is, they had no definite locality in mind, but were merely on their way to a home in that vague country called "the west," which at the time lay anywhere between the Alleghany and the Rocky Mountains. Some had in mind the prairies of Illinois, but even they sometimes stopped before reaching that destination by reason of having found the land of their heart's desire along the route. An illustration of this is presented in the case of a Batavia pioneer, John Bassett. Starting from his home in New York state in 1835, he had shipped his goods by canal and the lakes to Chicago, and he and family came overland by wagon, his purpose being to settle in Illinois. But while spending the night at the old "New York House" on the Chicago road, the Bassetts discovered an old friend in the person of the wife of the landlord, William Reynolds, and instead of resuming the journey the next morning, were induced to locate a home in Branch county. Not only that, but two other families traveling with the Bassetts also chose to settle here. It was no easy matter to bring east the goods that had been shipped to Chicago, but Mr. Bassett adhered to his determination, and, obtaining a homestead in section 34, became one of the substantial citizens of Batavia.

The first spot along the road to attract the passing emigrants was the burr-oak plain in the northeast quarter of what is now Bronson township. In 1828 Jabe Bronson, a Connecticut shipwright who had turned pioneer, in the course of his wandering through southern Michigan found the attractions of this place too strong to resist, and remained here long enough to become identified with history as the first settler and the first official of Branch county. There are no records to indicate the exact motives that caused Mr. Bronson to locate where he did, and with such a character the beauty of the country and its location along the Chicago road may have fulfilled all the conditions that would satisfy his restless nature. The fact that he made a tavern of his log house and accommodated there some of the first emigrants who passed through the county is itself sufficient reason for his location. He had spent the summer of 1827 in raising a crop in St. Joseph county, and thus had time to pick out what he believed the most eligible site for a home and place of business.

By September, 1830, six families had settled on Bronson's Prairie. This is on the authority of the late Wales Adams, who passed through that locality at that date, and who named the heads of the families as follows: Seth Dunham, who was then supervisor of Green township; Jabe Bronson, who besides acting as landlord was the justice of the peace; John J. Richardson, constable and collector; Samuel Smith, who had come in 1829 and was by trade a cooper, although owning a farm and engaging in its duties as nearly all the pioneers did; Jeremiah Tillotson, who had located there in the spring of 1829 and become a competitor of Jabe Bronson as inn-keeper, and whose position in the community is evidenced by his election as the first supervisor of Prairie River township; and Samuel Haslet.

This community was the nucleus of Bronson village. Already in 1829 a postoffice had been established in the house of Jabe Bronson. In 1833 came David and Alonzo Waterman, and in part of the building which they erected on the east side of the present village they placed a small stock of such things as a pioneer community would buy, and thus inaugurated the commercial side of the settlement. It seems that these men might well be given the honor of founding the village of Bronson, for they made the original plat of the village, to which they gave the name "York." This name was changed to Bronson by the same legislative act which gave the name of the first settler to the township.

At this point it is not our purpose to give in detail the history of Bronson village, but rather to indicate the extension of settlement with the Chicago road as the central axis and directing force. Jabe Bronson moved away about 1836, and his log tavern was occupied soon after by E. L. Rose, who had come from Niagara county, New York, and who in 1838 built the well known "Rose House," which stood on the north side of Chicago street. In 1837, on the south side of Chicago street, and a short distance west of Ruggles street, Mr. James Ruggles built a frame house in which he lived and kept public house for sixteen years.

In the meanwhile many other historic settlements had been made along the great road in Bronson town. To describe one of the most important of them no quotation could be so apt as one drawn from the oft-quoted historical sketch prepared by Wales Adams for the Branch County Directory of 1870.

"They (Wales Adams and Willard Pierce) traveled—after stopping at Bronson's prairie in September, 1870, as above referred to—through the counties of St. Joseph and Kalamazoo and saw many beautiful and unoccupied locations; but unaccustomed to agricultural pursuits and country life, they knew not in what business to engage. After much reflection they concluded to retrace their steps. Accordingly, about the first of October, they left Prairie Ronde in the morning, followed the trail through Nottawa and reached the Chicago trail about an hour after sunset, five miles west of Bronson prairie and near where the Chicago road now crosses Prairie River." Here he states that the road to Bronson was circuitous and difficult to follow—an interesting side light on the condition of the Chicago road at that

time. While debating whether to continue the journey to Bronson or to remain without shelter in the wilderness, the tired travelers discovered the camp of an emigrant party consisting of Resin Holmes and Thomas Holmes with their families, who had come from Marion county, Ohio, and were on their way further west. Adams and his friend having been accommodated over night in their roadside quarters, "the next morning," to resume Mr. Adams' narrative, "the parties examined the surrounding country, and before night it was stipulated that Pierce and Adams should build a sawmill where the Chicago trail at that time crossed Prairie river, and that the Holmeses should settle in the immediate vicinity. Accordingly, in the course of a few days, Pierce went on foot to Monroe, where the land office was then located, entered the land, and returned by the way of Detroit; purchased the mill irons and shipped them around the lakes to the mouth of the St. Joseph river, and from thence up the river to Mottville. The following July (1831) the mill was in operation. Mr. Pierce became dissatisfied with the country and with the business of making lumber, sold his interest in the sawmill to William A. Kent, and returned east."

Interesting as is the story of origin of this settlement, there is little to connect this place with the subsequent history of the township. The site chosen for the mill (in the northwest corner of section 29), was in the dense woods and low and swampy ground that did not attract settlers looking for farms. The sawmill was an institution of great value to the settlers for miles around, but the dam was considered a nuisance and after it was swept away by high water no attempt was made to rebuild. "Adams Mills" was the place at which Bishop Chase stopped over night and where he received the information which led him to settle in Gilead. The Bishop mentions the landlord Judson, who had come from New York state in the fall of 1831 and had established a tavern at this point mainly for the accommodation of those employed at the mill. The Bishop also held services here, to which all the settlers came.

At the Judson House was established the Prairie River postoffice in 1832, with Judson as the first postmaster, followed by William A. Kent. The office was discontinued on the completion of the Lake Shore Railroad through this locality.

Yet another instance may be related of how one thing leads to another in the settlement of a new country. In the winter of 1831-32 there arrived at the Adams mill from the state of New York a man named Alfred L. Driggs. Without independent means and seeking employment, he obtained a place with Mr. Adams as sawyer in the mill. He was ambitious to build and operate a mill on his own account, and assisted by Mr. Adams as security he bought the necessary material at Detroit, he had it shipped to Mottville, as Adams and Pierce had previously done, and from there was brought by ox team and wagon to Branch county. The location selected for this enterprise was on Swan creek in the northeast corner of section 17, a short distance north of the present line of the Lake Shore Railroad. The mill was built, and its operation gave another industry to Bronson township. In

June, 1836, the property was sold to Jonathan and Samuel Holmes. These men were from the state of New Hampshire. Samuel never became a resident of this county. Jonathan was one of the best known of Bronson pioneer citizens. In September, 1837, he brought his family to his new location in this county, the mill in the meantime having been run by his brother-in-law, David Taggart. After much delay he finally completed and had ready for operation in 1839 the first grist mill in the township. For thirty years the Holmes mill ground corn and wheat for settlers in all the surrounding country. As an institution in the development of the country its importance is clear. Early settlers everywhere have had to contend with that paramount need of getting bread-stuff, and when it was necessary to go long distances, over almost impassable roads, with a load of corn or wheat, be obliged to wait at the mill several days and nights for their "turn," the entire trip often consuming a week or more of time, it is easy to comprehend how essential such a mill as that just described was to rapid settlement.

By the census of 1837 Bronson township contained 635 inhabitants, ranking second among the townships of the county. But it must be remembered that at this date Bronson township included the territory from which have since been formed Matteson and Noble townships. With this modification the population is clearly not so concentrated as would otherwise be supposed. Bronson's prairie, of course, was the central and largest group, but as just indicated there were other centralizing points, and more important still, there was a gradual extension of population over all the available territory. This extension can only be stated in general terms. Only the "high lights" of settlement can be portrayed in a work that must stop far short of being encyclopedic and at the same time tedious.

BETHEL.

Since we have taken the Chicago road as the central theme in our narrative of the settlement and growth of Branch county, and having begun with Bronson prairie as the chronological starting point of this narrative, it will prove not uninteresting to pursue the subject in like manner, considering the townships through the center of the county successively from west to east.

Going east from Bronson the Chicago road next enters the town of Bethel, passing through the northwest corner. Since so much emphasis has been placed on routes of travel as factors in the development of this county, it is preliminary to the following paragraphs to state that Bethel township had two other roads that influenced early settlement. One was the old Indian road already mentioned, running from Adams mill along Prairie river across the southwest corner of Bethel township. The other was the state road, authorized by the legislature in March, 1836, and running centrally across the county from north to south toward Fort Wayne, Indiana. This road, however, was not immediately constructed, and did not become a large factor in the very early settlement of the south part of the county.

It runs along the eastern border of the town of Bethel, and when built became a route much traveled by immigrants.

As to the original topography of this township, it has been stated that the timber lands and the burr-oak openings were about of equal extent, so that its attractiveness to early settlers would compare favorably with that of other townships. When the process of settlement was practically complete, the population of Bethel was equal to that of any of the townships except those containing villages or cities. None the less, Bethel township received the smallest proportion of the early settlers of all the townships traversed by the Chicago road. This is shown by the figures of the census of 1837, which gave Bethel (or Elizabeth as it was still called) township only 177 inhabitants. An outline of Bethel beginnings may be briefly given.

The article by Wales Adams already quoted tells of Bethel's first settler. "A Mr. Snow (Eleazer Snow) boarded with Mr. Tillotson (at Bronson in 1830), and was cultivating a patch of corn and potatoes without a fence, about three miles east of Bronson, at a place now called 'Snow Prairie.'" This was the first improvement commenced in Bethel, and likewise gave to the locality the name it has ever since borne. This first settler is thus honored more by accident of time and circumstance rather than as a builder. He was of the restless, wandering sort, and in the fall of 1831 sold out his claims and improvements to Moses Olmstead, a man of sturdier mold. It was at the latter's home that the first town meeting was held. Of his sons, Lyman Olmsead was for thirty years one of the substantial citizens of Bethel.

In the following years other accessions to the Snow Prairie settlement were made, and it is one of the oldest distinct localities in the county.

The best farming land of the township lay in the southwest corner, and it was there, along the Indian road above mentioned, that the strongest settlement was made. First of all are the names of the Freeman and Marsh families. They increase the list of strong pioneers that Onondaga county, New York, gave to Branch county. Having entered land in the timbered region of Lenawee county, Mr. Isaac Freeman, in the fall of 1834, started west by the Erie Canal and Lake Erie to Detroit, and then overland to Ypsilanti. There he met a man from Jackson Prairie, Indiana, who convinced him of the far superior advantages of the burr-oak region over the timber lands of Lenawee county. Determined to see this country before settling permanently on his first claim, Mr. Freeman came on west to Bronson township, and then southeast along the road leading to Jackson prairie. The region of Bethel and Gilead townships through which he passed fulfilled all his expectations, and he at once returned to Ypsilanti to bring on his family and his goods. The Marsh family, consisting of the mother and four sons, Ebenezer, Daniel, Wallace and John, had accompanied Mr. Freeman on his prospecting trip, and when all were once more united they moved into a house on section 5 in Gilead township, half a mile south of the Bethel line. Soon after Mr. Freeman bought land in section 30, of Bethel, and later in section 32. This was the beginning of the community in southwest Bethel. Others came soon after, among whom should be mentioned the Scotchman,

James Bennie, whose first experiences in Branch county were connected with the Bishop Chase establishment, and who in 1836 located on the southeast quarter of section 31 in Bethel. About the same time the families of McMillan, McWilliams and Olds located in this vicinity. Mrs. Margaret McMillan and sons, Stephen and James, bought land in sections 29 and 30, near Prairie river, building their house on what was known as the Bronson road, a short distance north of the section line. Philander Olds bought a small plat of land in section 29, and had a cooper shop there several years. Ebenezer Green and sons, Amos and Silas S., were other accessions to this settlement. their land being on section 30.

A sudden illness was the cause that deprived the state of Illinois of a party of settlers and gave them to north Bethel. Daniel Smead, at the head of his family of eleven persons, had halted for the night at the Taylor Tavern, and while there was prostrated by a disease which precluded the possibility of further progress. It was in the month of November, 1835, that the party stopped there, and being compelled to spend the rest of the winter there, the sons spent the time in prospecting about the surrounding country and were so pleased that they determined to locate permanently instead of continuing the journey to Illinois. The father, on recovering from his illness, was brought to the same way of thinking, and early the next year they entered a large tract of land in sections 3, 4 and 9, of Bethel township. Two of the sons, Morgan L. and Lyman Smead, lived there nearly half a century.

By the state road from Coldwater there came into the eastern sections of the township the families of Heman Lake, Origen Bingham, Lemuel Bingham, Adam Bower, Thomas Judson, Lyman Seymour, Timothy Colby, Job Devol and Otis Davis, all being from Erie county, New York, and coming to this county in 1836. Most of them settled in section 25, about the Bethel postoffice neighborhood, and all had their homes adjacent to the state road.

It has been stated that at the census of 1837 there were 177 persons in Bethel township. It is likely that the township officers elected at the first town meeting, held in the spring of the same year, would fairly represent the citizenship at that time, and for that reason their names are given, as follows: Elijah Thomas, David M. Clark, Silas S. Green, Isaac Freeman, David Cummings, Ebenezer Green, Daniel Smead, Moses Olmstead, Jr., Lauriston Smead, Stephen McMillan, Morgan Smead, Phillip Olmstead, Morgan Johnston, O. Dickinson, Samuel Handy, James Thurston.

Batavia.

In October, 1837, Batavia township had 357 inhabitants. When one considers the position of this township both with reference to the Chicago road which runs for four miles across its southeast corner, and to the village of Branch which lay close to the east line of Batavia, it will be possible to judge beforehand about where this population of 1837 was largely located. Topog-

raphy also played its part in the shaping of settlement. Mill creek running from northeast to southwest gave a strip of low land along its banks in the central portion of the township. Between this strip and the line of the Chicago road was the oak-openings land, which seems to have been favored most in the settlement.

In the northwest corner of section 25, on the north side of the Chicago road, Timothy R. Wallace, in 1832, established the first public house in this township. Five years later it was purchased by Leonard Taylor, a New York state settler, and under his ten years' management became known far and wide as the "Taylor House," and still later as the "Batavia House." During the twenty years before the coming of the railroad, thousands of emigrants must have stopped there, and in many ways it was a part of the pioneer life.

Even more noted was the "NewYork House," a log tavern on section 33 on the south side of the Chicago road, built in 1833 by Jeremiah Tillotson, the first supervisor of Prairie River township. About a year later the house and the farm were sold to the Reynolds family, who had come from Genesee county, New York. This family, so long identified with this portion of the county, consisted of the father, Alpheus, and his sons, Alpheus, William, Lewis, Jacob and John. The "New York House" had the distinction of being a stage station. A stage station was not so important to the surrounding locality as a railroad station of later date, but many a village that grew up along the Chicago road dated its history from the time when the stages began making their over-night halts at that point. And for a time it seemed likely that the "New York House" would be the nucleus of a village, for about a dozen houses were grouped around the station. The railroad was built, the stage coach ceased to arrive, and the community disintegrated. It is of interest that the first town meeting of Batavia was held at this place, in 1836.

The next important settlement was made at the east side of the township. In the southwest corner of section 24, Abel Olds settled in 1834. His brother, Martin Olds, one of the most prominent of the early settlers, came in June of that year. He journeyed hither from Ohio, and passing through Coldwater halted at the Wallace House already mentioned. Here his family remained until he had completed his land entries, which were made in the oak-openings of sections 13 and 14. His house was built at the southwest corner of section 13. Martin Olds became the first supervisor of this township, and was later probate judge of the county.

John H. Stephens, one of the early sheriffs of Branch county, also settled on section 14 about a year after Mr. Olds, his farm being located along the state road. Another neighbor of Mr. Olds was Allen Stoddard.

There was soon a settler on every section of the land south and east of Mill creek. The circumstances connected with the settlement of John Bassett on section 34 have been recounted. In 1835 the first blacksmith shop in the town was established in section 28, its proprietor being John Woodruff. In the same section, on Mill creek, was located, in 1836, the

first sawmill of the township, long known as the "Woodard Mill." It was built by Alpheus, William and John Reynolds, but was later owned by Samuel Woodard, hence its name. Here, too, was the site of a boom town, "Lawtonville," whose location was described as beautiful and whose lots were sold in the east to any credulous purchaser who was willing to take a well executed village plat as evidence of a flourishing village.

In 1836 Benjamin Olmstead and Philo Porter located on section 27. The latter served two terms as sheriff of the county. In 1838 another tavern was opened along the road, in section 34, by Samuel H. Cary, a settler of that year from Ithaca, New York. He also gave the name to Cary's Lake, and when the government consented to the establishment of a postoffice in this town in 1840, he became first postmaster. On the building of the railroad the office was moved and became the central institution of the little hamlet since known as Batavia. The office was kept in another of the Chicago road hostelries, the "Dudley House," which had been built by Albert Dudley.

That the sections just mentioned contained the bulk of the early population, finds additional proof in the fact that when, in 1835, the citizens decided they needed a school they built the first one in section 13. A year later the site was changed to a location on the Chicago road in section 27. The second district, organized in the winter of 1836-37, had its building on section 25, the land being donated by Timothy R. Wallace.

The names of the first settlers already mentioned find repetition in the record of the first town meeting of Batavia, held in April, 1836. The following are the men who were chosen at that meeting to act as officials of the township: Alpheus Reynolds, Martin Olds, J. H. Stephens, Jabe Bronson (who lived in Batavia after leaving Bronson), Samuel Woodard, L. Taylor, Abel Olds, Morgan Smead, Shirlock Cook, Amasa Miller, T. R. Wallace, James L. Young, Ira Gifford, George D. Babbet, Horace Field, John Bassett, John M. Chapin, Moses Olmstead, Benjamin Parker, John Woodruff.

CHAPTER IX.

SETTLEMENT AND BEGINNINGS (CONTINUED).

Coldwater Township.

When the census of 1837 was taken, Branch county had ten townships. Of these Coldwater was by much the most populous; indeed, it contained nearly a fourth of the entire population of the county. That ratio has been maintained practically throughout the subsequent seventy years. Approximately, a quarter of the entire population of Branch county now live in Coldwater township, including Coldwater city.

Coldwater township did not receive the first settlers of Branch county. This is a circumstance requiring some attempt at explanation. It might have been an accident of history. But when we consider that the westbound emigrants saw the beautiful plain known as Coldwater Prairie before they reached Bronson's Prairie, it is pertinent to ask why the nucleus of the county's settlement was formed at Bronson, that Jabe Bronson's house was the first civic center, rather than on Coldwater prairie.

Major Abraham Edwards, of Kalamazoo, who went along the Chicago trail in August, 1828, stated that on the site of the village of Coldwater was an Indian trading post kept by Beaubien and that on the prairie adjacent was a large Indian settlement. The same traveler found Bronson settled on his prairie, and both Hillsdale county on the east, and St. Joseph county on the west had begun to be settled. But the existence of a large Indian reserve in central Branch county and the presence of a number of Indians in possession of one of the most eligible regions along the Chicago road, would seem to be sufficient explanation of the fact that no settlement had yet been attempted there.

At the Chicago treaty of August, 1821, the Indians of southern Michigan ceded to the government all their lands except five comparatively small reservations, on which it was the policy of the government to collect the various bands and retain them until the convenient season should arrive for removing all the tribes to the west. The "Mick-ke-saw-be" reservation, which was one of the five, was located wholly in Branch county. It was six miles square, and comprised the eastern two-thirds of what is now Coldwater township, and the western one-third of the present Quincy township. However, in compliance with the request of the Indians, the west boundary of the reserve was run sixty rods west of the appropriate section line in Coldwater township, and the same was true of the east boundary in Quincy township.

Thus the greater part of the present Coldwater township was an Indian

reserve, until it was ceded to the United States by a treaty of September, 1827. Notwithstanding this treaty, the Indians did not at once quit their old reserve in this county, and there can be no doubt that their presence acted as a retarding influence on settlement for at least a year or so after the treaty of 1827.

But with a population of 960 in October, 1837, Coldwater township must have been settled very rapidly between 1830 and that date. In the other townships we have indicated the focal points of settlement and the general directions of growth. In Coldwater township the prominent facts are concerned with the county seat at Branch and with the gradually overshadowing importance of Coldwater village. Therefore, the story of beginnings in Coldwater township becomes the story of the origin of Coldwater City, around which the rest of the township extends as a fringe to the central commercial and social area.

A little more than seventy-five years ago, not a habitation nor institution of white man existed on the ground now covered by Coldwater city. The Chicago trail, entering at the center of the east line of the township, continued a distance of one mile over the gravelly drift ridges that were once the east shore of a large lake, and then descended, at what is known as the Fisk schoolhouse, to a plain of burr-oak openings, almost perfectly level, and stretching to the west for a distance of over three miles until the trough of the Coldwater river and the chain of marl lakes is reached. Along the trail a small band of Indians still had their homes, and there was an Indian trading post near the east side of the prairie, and another on the ground now occupied by the cemetery. From the point where the trail came to the level, a ridge of gentle ascent passed around the northwest, while to the southwest a more prominent acclivity, since known as the Warner hills, seemed to guard and give direction to the little stream that wound at its northern base.

At this point, at the eastern edge of Coldwater prairie, there settled, in 1830, Abram F. Bolton and John Morse, on the east part of section 23. This was "university land," and had not yet come into market, consequently these men, and those who became their neighbors, were "squatters." They built a log cabin of two rooms, which they opened to the use of the traveling public as the first hotel in the vicinity. Here also was held the first town meeting of Coldwater township, and the "Morse Tavern" belongs among the institutions of early Branch county. Another well known family that settled on these university lands east of Coldwater were the Arnolds, who located there in 1833, and who soon after became identified prominently with Quincy township.

But this was not the only event of that year of beginnings, 1830. Lemuel Bingham put up his cabin near the house of the Indian trader, Phineas Bonner, also near the east side of the prairie, and there established a blacksmith shop, at which many an emigrant's horses were shod and wagons mended.

In another important event of that year, Mr. A. F. Bolton was concerned. Although, as stated, he had located with Morse at the east end

of the prairie when he brought his family here in 1830, in 1829 he had been over this ground and had purchased a tract of land on the east side of Coldwater river where the Chicago road crossed the stream. In the summer of 1830 the three commissioners appointed to locate the spot where the county seat should stand when the county was organized came to transact their business in Branch county. Mr. Bolton at once became an interested party, and explained convincingly the eligibility of his land for the purposes intended. As one looks back from the present, it seems that the commissioners exercised good judgment in locating the site of the future court house on the east bank of Coldwater river near where the bridge is located; for it must be remembered that the village of Coldwater had not yet begun, and few spots along the Chicago road, and in the central area of the county, offered more advantages than the one selected. But the commissioners had failed to be "sworn in" before proceeding with the execution of their duties, and for that reason their action in "sticking the stake" on Mr. Bolton's land was invalid. Had their work been legal, the history of the Branch county seat and of Coldwater city might have been different.

This event leads us to the brief recital of the ephemeral existence of the village of "Masonville," which long since became an empty name, and whose site many years ago was absorbed in the growing city of Coldwater. Masonville was the name given, probably by Mr. Bolton, to the prospective village that would inevitably grow up around the county seat. Furthermore, at the spot now occupied by the cemetery, there had been for some years an Indian trading post, and as early as 1831 Roland Root and James B. Stuart were engaged in merchandising there, principally with the Indians. About the same time Mr. Bolton had procured the services of two carpenters, and just east of the river, on his land, had a frame hotel constructed. The "Bolton House," according to the authority of the late Dr. W. B. Sprague, was kept for awhile by such well known men as Elisha Warren and Harvey Warner, and in 1833 passed into the hands of James B. Stuart, who was a very popular landlord. Shortly after his death the hotel burned, and so far as known that was the last page in the history of Masonville, which had once aspired to be the county seat and commercial center of Branch county.

For the time being the western side of the township was in the lead. In 1830 John Toole, the schoolmaster and pioneer of Bronson, had begun the construction of a sawmill on the west branch of the Coldwater, on section 30, at the site of the historic Black Hawk mills. The work progressed slowly, and during the same year Seth Dunham, John Allen and others took a share in the enterprise. Toole became discouraged and left, but the others had the mill in operation by the spring of 1831, Mr. Allen being in charge. This was the first sawmill in the county, and from it the settlement at Coldwater obtained its lumber for several years.

Village of Branch.

Half a mile north of this mill site the land rises rather abruptly from the river and forms a well defined eminence. On this broad surface the

three commissioners appointed under an act of March 4, 1831, formally located the county seat of Branch county. Mr. Bolton tried without effect to prevail on them to accept the original but invalid location of Masonville. No settlement or improvements had been made on the spot thus designated for the county seat; but no censure can attach to the commissioners on that account. Nothing resembling a village had yet appeared in this vicinity; and their choice not being circumscribed except in a general way, the commissioners selected what at that time must have seemed the most suitable spot for the civic center of the county.

This action of the commissioners gave official cause for the existence of the "village of Branch." There yet remained two years before the separate organization of the county when this county seat should really become a place for the transaction of county business; but men of judgment were on hand to make the most of the opportunity thus presented. Elisha Warren and others purchased all the land about the site, and at once laid out a village.

The fortunes of the village are soon told. A few of the old pioneers lived there and were identified with the only years of prosperity the village had. Seth Dunham, the first county treasurer and one of the proprietors of the mill near by, was one. Another was Harvey Warner, who, born in Warren county, New York, in 1809, had come from Monroe county, that state, by the Chicago road to Coldwater prairie in 1830, and in 1832 was appointed the first postmaster, the office being located in Branch. A store was opened in 1833 by E. T. Paxton, a distillery was put in operation about 1835, and a schoolhouse was erected that served not only its essential purpose but also for religious worship and was the first court house of Branch county. In the summer of 1837, in accordance with previous action of the board of supervisors, a jail was built, Branch county's prisoners up to that time having been detained in the St. Joseph county jail. Five hundred dollars was the sum set aside for the construction of this building. It was thirty feet square, built of hewn logs, and while the lower floor was utilized as a jail, the upper part was used for court purposes. This was the only public building that Branch county had until the construction of the first court house of Coldwater.

The village of Branch was also the home of the first newspaper published in the county, the Michigan Star, issued by County Clerk Charles P. West for the first time in May, 1837. At this time of speculation and "wild-cat" business promotion preceding the great financial panic of 1837, several efforts were made to establish in Branch a bank, along the lines of the old Coldwater Bank elsewhere described. The principal mover in this enterprise, which never succeeded, was Joel Burlingame, father of Hon. Anson Burlingame, the statesman and diplomatist. Four or five years of the latter's youth were spent at his father's tavern in Branch, and he got his first acquaintance with men and affairs in the original county seat.

So far as authentic records go, the above may be considered a fair description of the village of Branch in the high tide of its existence. One other institution is of pregnant importance to the succeeding narrative.

As already stated, the water power of the west branch of the Coldwater was the first utilized for mill purposes in the county. The same power was used to turn the first grist mill in the county. The "Black Hawk" mills have been an institution in Branch county almost from the beginning of its history. One of the first physicians in the county, a Dr. Hill, was the promoter of the enterprise, and it is probable that Seth Dunham and others had a part of the control, and, as Dr. Hill soon left, they must have become sole proprietors. The mill was a small affair, located alongside the sawmill, and the stones were about two feet in diameter, and the bolting cloth a sort of gauzy cotton fabric. At that early day it was best known for the bad quality of flour it produced. The date of construction of this mill is usually given as 1832.

But the important fact in connection with this mill was explained by the late Judge Harvey Warner at a pioneers' meeting in 1884. While the rush of settlement was at its height, about 1836, several enterprising men, among whom was Francis Smith, determined to establish a mill. "And as the water power at Branch was better than that where Coombs' mill is now situated, they proposed to Mr. Elisha Warren of Branch to buy the half interest in his property at that place for $75 and then build the mill there. This offer Mr. Warren would not accept, and on that account the mill was located at Coldwater. This was the death blow to Branch; and this transaction was the turn in the tide that ended in the prosperity of Coldwater. Otherwise what is now the city of Coldwater would have remained a beautiful broad field dotted with elegant farm houses." Perhaps the importance of the mill transaction is overestimated in the quoted words. But it is certain that the proprietors of the village of Branch, by holding the land at high price, did not encourage the formation of an industrial and business center at that point, and this fact is to be kept in mind in considering the waning importance of Branch and the growth of Coldwater.

The situation of the village of Branch off the line of Chicago road must also be considered an adverse circumstance in its struggle to become the center of the county. When we remember that mail stages began running along this road from Tecumseh to Niles in 1830, and that travel increased constantly from that date, it is evident that a position even a mile south of the thoroughfare was a detriment to the fullest development of the village.

Concerning Elisha Warren, the founder of the village of Branch, Caleb D. Randall, in a paper read before the Pioneers in December, 1884, gave this sketch:

Born in Connecticut in 1795, and died in 1857, he married Caroline Hanchett, daughter of Joseph Hanchett, and moved to this county in 1831. Mr. Warren settled at Branch, where he purchased five eighty-acre lots and platted and established the village of Branch, where he secured the establishment of the county seat. In connection with the ten years' contest over the county seat the name of Mr. Warren is intimately associated. After the first location of the county seat (at Masonville) had failed, new commissioners were appointed in 1831, who located the county capital at Branch,

where the court house and jail—a cheap wooden building—was located on the fine rise of ground just west of the present group of houses. From that time until 1840 there was a contest for the removal to Coldwater, in which Mr. Warren took an active part and fought his battle well. Mr. Warren frequently visited Detroit, the then seat of the state government, to defend his county site, and it was not till 1840 when the legislature passed the definite act of removal to Coldwater. The question entered into politics. The county was canvassed for votes. Mr. Warren was able to carry the western part of the county with him, and he had much merit on his side. First, the county seat was already located at Branch; second, it was the geographical center of the county; third, the site, by its high rolling ground, purer water, drainage, etc., was better adapted to a village. But he had a hard battle when we recall that against him were the Crippens, Spragues, Daugherty, the Hayneses, Francis Smith, Cross, Chandler, and a host like them, young vigorous men. It was not, after all, the merits of the case that decided the issue. The population of Coldwater and the eastern part of the county increased the more rapidly, and so it had by 1840 votes enough to secure commissioners favorable to the change, which was accomplished. Mr. Warren remained and died at his post.

Origin of Coldwater.

In the meanwhile Coldwater Prairie had become the seat of a thriving population. In October, 1829, when the first lands of this vicinity were offered for sale, two brothers, Robert J. and William H. Cross, obtained a patent, signed by President Andrew Jackson, to three-fourths of section 22 in Coldwater township. The following year both these men came to this land and built a flat-roofed log shanty on the north side of the Chicago road, a few rods west of the present eastern limits of the city. The improvements they made became proverbial with the people in the county and with travelers who passed through this region. This land was sold in 1835 to James Fisk, Rev. Francis Smith and William B. Sprague, and Robert J. Cross then went to Illinois. His brother, William H., who held official position in the first years of the county, was at one time in the mercantile business as a partner with Silas A. Holbrook, and his later career was identified with St. Joseph county, where he died in 1886.

On section 15 John Morse purchased eighty acres, in 1830, and in January of the following year A. F. Bolton, Robert J. Cross and Robert H. Abbott each purchased eighty acres of this section.

On section 21, Joseph Hanchett, Jr., took up eighty acres in the fall of 1830. In 1831 entries were made on this section by Elisha Warren, Audrain Abbott and Robert J. Cross.

Section 22 was entirely taken up by Hugh Campbell and the Cross brothers, their entries being dated in the fall of 1830, and by Allen Tibbits, who entered the remaining eighty acres in June, 1830. In February, 1831,

Campbell sold his eighty acres, in the northwest corner, to the Crosses. Twenty acres of this had been plowed and sixteen apple trees set out.

These three sections comprised the area on which the village of Coldwater had its beginnings. The first entry on section 16, which was the public school section, was not made until 1837. It is reasonable to suppose that the men above mentioned were on the ground in 1831, and were the landed proprietors most concerned in the inauguration of any village enterprise.

Hugh Campbell, whose eighty was located in the northwest corner of section 22, built a log house on the north side of the Chicago road. This was in 1830, and is accredited with being the first dwelling erected on the original site of the village. It stood near the corner of what is now Hudson and Chicago streets, about the site of the Y. M. C. A. building.

This was the approximate situation when the Rev. Allen Tibbits came along the Chicago road to this spot in the autumn of 1830. An itinerant Methodist preacher, with headquarters at Plymouth, twenty-five miles west of Detroit, he was at this time a young man of twenty-six years, having been born in Lyons, New York, in 1804. The purpose of his visit to Coldwater prairie in 1830 was to find a permanent home, and when he returned in 1831 he located, as above shown, eighty acres in the southwest quarter of section 22. In the meantime Hugh Campbell had moved from his residence, and in his rough log cabin, which was without a floor, Mr. Tibbits made his first home. About the same time, also, he must have purchased this Campbell eighty (from the Crosses) in the northwest corner of section 22. From the records above given and from what follows, it is certain that, in the year 1831, the eighty acres in the northwest corner of section 22 was owned by Mr. Tibbets, and the eighty adjoining that on the west, in the northeast corner of section 21, was owned by Mr. Joseph Hanchett.

Mr. Hanchett, who had arrived on the ground a few weeks before Mr. Tibbits, also lived during the summer of 1831 in the Campbell cabin. These two men decided to establish a village on part of their land. To them belongs the honor of being called the founders of Coldwater. Calling in the services of James B. Tompkins, they platted a village. The original plat, signed by James B. Tompkins, the surveyor (whose son, of the same name, died in Girard township in 1905), and dated July 29, 1831, is now in the register of deeds office at Centerville, where it was filed for record December 1, 1832. This plat was acknowledged by Allen Tibbits and Joseph Hanchett on November 29, 1832. From these facts it is proper to date the origin of Coldwater on July 29, 1831, so that the city may in the year of this writing celebrate its seventy-fifth anniversary.

The first name given to the village was "Lyons," assigned by Mr. Tibbits in honor of his birthplace at Lyons, New York. But in the following year it was christened Coldwater, which was a translation of the Indian name "Chuck-sew-ya-bish," by which the natives are said to have designated the waters of the stream flowing south of the village.

The two eighty-acre lots owned respectively by Joseph Hanchett and Allen Tibbits, as above stated, were both included in the act of incorporation

of the village. But only part of this land was surveyed into village lots at first. The extent of the original village of Coldwater is easily stated. On the west it was bounded by what is now Monroe street; on the east by what is now Jefferson street. The north boundary was the section line, or, approximately, Church street; while the south was what is now Washington street. This area was divided into fifty-five numbered lots, each six rods wide by twelve rods deep. The conspicuous features designated on the original plat were, the Public Square, sixteen rods wide from east to west, and thirty rods long from north to south; the Chicago street, one hundred feet wide, a width that has been one of the chief charms of this broad avenue and a matter of pride to citizens; the other streets named on the plat—Pearl and Church streets, running east and west, and Hudson and Division streets, north and south—were each four rods wide.

The manuscript history of "The Origin of the City of Coldwater," by the late Dr. William B. Sprague, describes the first twelve buildings erected on this village plat and which were standing at the time the Doctor came to Coldwater in 1835.

The first was the log structure put up by Hugh Campbell, the location of which has already been mentioned.

The second was more pretentious, a log residence, finished and occupied by Mr. Joseph Hanchett in the fall of 1831. This stood on Lot 44, a little north of the E. R. Clarke and Company building, and on what is now Monroe street.

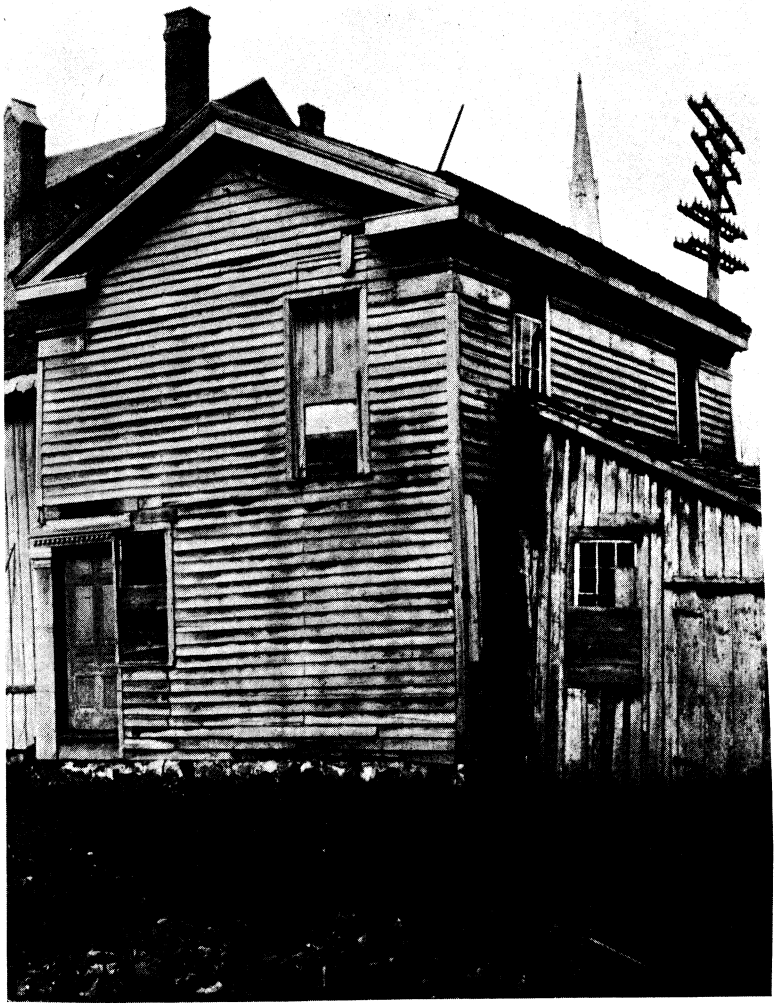
In 1832 John Wilson, a brother-in-law of Allen Tibbits, built for himself and family a frame residence on Lot 41, on the north side of Chicago street and next to the Loomis Battery Park. Mr. Wilson was a carpenter and joiner by trade.

On the next lot east, where the Episcopal church now stands, William McCarty in the same year built a frame house. This house is still standing, externally intact, as part of the barn on the rear of the premises of Mrs. Sarah E. Conant, next east of the Loomis Battery Park. We were assured by Mr. L. D. Halsted early in the present year, 1906, that this is the oldest house in Coldwater ever used as a dwelling. It still shows so well what it was originally that an illustration of it is given. Mr. McCarty used his dwelling as a jail during his service as sheriff.

Where the Edwin R. Clarke Library building now stands, Peter Martin, the first probate judge of Branch county, erected in 1832 a frame dwelling.

Also in 1832, the first building used for store purposes was built. It was a frame structure, and stood on the south side of Chicago street just west of the public square, on part of the site now occupied by the Bovee block. Silas A. Holbrook and Grover Hibbard had come here early in 1832 from Tecumseh, and in this building the first Coldwater store was opened, the attic being used for the residence of Mr. Holbrook and family.

On the north side of Chicago street, near Hudson, on the spot now occupied by the Milo Campbell residence, Rev. Allen Tibbits erected a small



The House occupied in 1833 in Coldwater by the first Sheriff of the County, William McCarty, as home and jail; now, 1905, the oldest building in Coldwater and part of a barn.

frame house in 1833. Up to that time he had continued to live in the log cabin built by Hugh Campbell.

On the west side of Hudson street, a short distance south of Chicago, Hiram and George Hayden, cabinet makers, put up two dwellings in 1834. On the northeast corner of their lot, that is, on Chicago street, they had their shop.

There is evidence in what has just been said, that the proprietors of Coldwater village were very much in earnest in promoting the interests of their village. Every encouragement was held out to the settlement of those who would become factors of usefulness in the community. The good judgment of the founders is seen in the fact that all of the settlers just mentioned became closely associated with the affairs of the village and county, excepting only the Hayden brothers, one of whom soon died and the other moved to a farm in the county.

The zeal with which Allen Tibbits undertook to build up Coldwater is well shown in the case of the next settler. Matthew Brink, a blacksmith, had located in the village of Branch. Early in 1835 he was induced to move to Coldwater by the gift of a lot in the village, on which he was to build his home and have his shop. This lot was on the south side of Chicago street, at the east edge of the village, near the present Jefferson street.

Dr. Sprague mentions three other buildings that were on the village plat in 1835. One was a plain frame house on the west side of Division and between the square and Pearl street, about where the Baptist church stands. On the east side of Hudson street, a little north of Pearl, was built the first village schoolhouse, standing on a lot also donated by Mr. Tibbits. And on the north side of Chicago street, just west of the public square, where the Southern Michigan Hotel now stands, was a two-story frame structure still in process of building. Edward Hanchett was building it for a tavern. It remained for John J. Curtis to finish it and open it to the public, as the "Eagle House."

Such was the pioneer Coldwater, seen at a time when it was still possible to distinguish the individual units. In the men who were there in 1835 lay great possibilities for future development; but still more in the group of settlers who came that year. In that list would be found such names as Bradley Crippen and his four sons, Lorenzo D., Philo H., Benjamin and Rev. Elliott M.; James Fisk, Thomas Dougherty, Rev. Francis Smith, Dr. William B. Sprague, Dr. Darwin Littlefield, James Haynes and his sons John T., Levi, Harvey and James. These men, with those already mentioned, formed the bulk and sinews of the community and were the real founders of the city of Coldwater.

The developments of the next few years are all important. The detailed features of the growth of Coldwater cannot be noted. The strength of its citizenship has been noted; it was a live, enterprising community, with business and industrial promise. Alert and determined to make the most of their opportunities, the citizens pressed on to the next step in civic growth. In February, 1837, the legislature passed the act of incorporation

for the village of Coldwater, and when, pursuant to this act, the citizens convened on the first Monday of May at the "Central Exchange," they chose the following men to direct the affairs of the village during its first year: Hon. Hiram Alden, then Branch county's representative in the legislature, became village president; Hiram Shoudler, recorder; and William H. Cross, Silas A. Holbrook, Joseph Hanchett, Reuben J. Champion, Harvey Warner and John J. Curtis, trustees.

So much for the civic community. It was still a pioneer village, barely out of the first stages of individual activity. Organization of industry and classification of pursuits had only begun. The tilling of the prairie soil was a part of the work of nearly all. There were several physicians, whose range of duties, however, covered most of the county, Dr. William H. Hanchett and Dr. Hiram Alden being most prominent; there were several merchants, hotelkeepers, mechanics, and in 1837 came the first lawyer. Altogether, the basis of village growth and prosperity was well laid.

Manufacturing received its first strong impulse at this time. It is not an overstatement of the truth to say that this form of activity was the vital element in Coldwater's subsequent growth. Up to that time Branch, with the nearby "Poka" or Black Hawk mills, had been the manufacturing center for lumber and flour.

Of similar enterprises at Coldwater, the first is best described in the words of Allen Tibbits: "Joseph Hanchett and myself were the sole proprietors and builders of the first grist mill erected at Coldwater. It consisted of a piece of an oak log some three feet long set firmly in the ground with a hollow on the top and in the shape of a bowl, hacked and burnt smoothly out for a nether millstone. It would hold a peck. For the upper stone a large piece of timber made roughly in a pestle form was suspended from a strong springpole above, and then we were ready for custom work as well as our own. But how to obtain the corn to grind was another consideration, none could be furnished so early by the people—it had not yet been grown; so we went to northern Indiana where the settlements along the Vistula turnpike were more advanced, and this all here were obliged to do. Our profits from this investment were not large, scarcely enough to pay for outlays and labor, though our patronage was large." This mill, operated in the summer of 1831, stood at the south front of Mr. Hanchett's log residence already described.

In 1834 Peter Martin, the judge of probate, built a sawmill that stood a trifle north from where Division street intersects Clay street, and the dam occupied the line upon which Division street crosses the Coldwater river. Traces of the old mill race may still be seen along the north bank of the river. The pond, which spread over quite a large surface, was after about four years considered to be a source of disease and was torn away by the people as a nuisance. On the authority of Dr. Sprague, this property had passed into the hands of L. D. and P. H. Crippen about 1835.

On a previous page, in connection with the history of the village of Branch, has been mentioned the failure of an attempt to establish a mill

there, and the significance of the event in the contest between Branch and Coldwater. It is now proper to describe how that attempt which failed at Branch resulted in the establishment of early Coldwater's chief manufacturing industry.

Early in 1836 the partners, Francis Smith, Thomas Dougherty and William B. Sprague, selected a site at the west end of Pearl street as the location for their saw and grist mill. Work on the sawmill was begun the same season and was finished some time in the fall. The flouring mill was commenced quite early in the spring of 1837, and completed early in the following winter. Samuel Etheridge, another pioneer citizen of Coldwater, was chief engineer, architect and builder. The mills were built in accordance with the most modern standards of the time.

In 1838 the mills were sold to John J. Curtis and O. B. Clark, from whom they passed, in 1841, to L. D. and P. H. Crippen. On the withdrawal of P. H. Crippen in 1844 the firm became Crippen and Dougherty, and later L. D. Crippen was sole owner. The mills were burnt in 1858, but rebuilt the next year. James B. Crippen became owner, and then E. R. Clarke, and in 1869 William A. Coombs bought the plant, since which time his name has been connected with the institution.

CHAPTER X.

COUNTY SEAT CONTEST.

With this understanding of the growth of Coldwater village, the ability of its citizenship and its material resources, we may now describe the final stages of the county seat contest, which resulted in the complete loss of prestige for the village of Branch and the transfer of all its power to the rival village on the prairie.

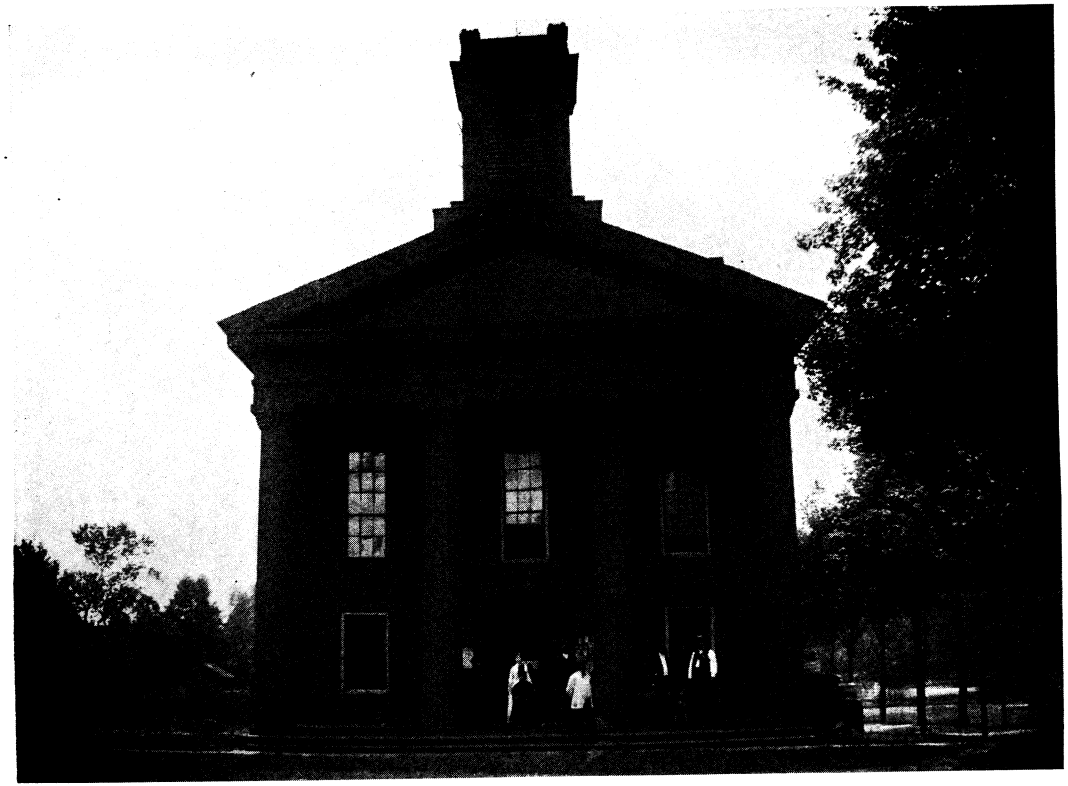
As mentioned in the sketch of Elisha Warren, the citizens of Coldwater never allowed the county seat to rest quietly with Branch. In the end the question was settled by local option, and Coldwater, being able to summon the greater political power to the support of her contention, won the county seat.

An act of the legislature approved March 16, 1840, declared that after July 4, 1840, the seat of justice of the county of Branch was vacated and that the same should be selected and fixed upon by "three commissioners to be appointed by the governor by and with the advice of the senate." Of course these commissioners could choose to allow the seat to remain with Branch, and removal to another location was conditioned on a land site being donated and all cost of court house and jail being secured by money or bond from the interested parties. The entire transaction of removal should cause no expense to attach either to the state or the county.

The commissioners were to make their selection on or before the first Monday in June, 1841. Whether the opposition to the change was still too strong in the western part of the county, or whether the citizens of Coldwater were unable or unwilling to fulfill satisfactorily the conditions of the bill, cannot be definitely stated, since neither the county nor newspaper records throw any light on the matter. Certain it is that the county seat was not changed under the provisions of this bill of 1840.

But on February 5, 1842, an act was approved declaring the seat of justice vacated and to be established in the "village of Coldwater;" provided, that security should be given to the county commissioners for a sum equal to the appraised value of the court house and jail at Branch; that at least three-quarters of an acre of land in the village of Coldwater should be donated for the county site; and that the persons interested in the removal should furnish free temporary quarters for the holding of the terms of circuit court until a court house could be erected. The terms of the bill were to be complied with on or before March 1, 1842.

By this act the selection of the site was to be determined by the three county commissioners. (It should be stated that the system of county gov-



The Old Court House, Coldwater, 1848-1887

ernment by a board of township supervisors had been abolished in 1837 and the county's affairs placed under the jurisdiction of a board of three county commissioners. The office of county commissioner had been abolished in 1841 and a return made to the township supervisor system. Accordingly the last important official acts of the Branch county commissioners was the selection of the new county seat.) The county commissioners at this time were Hiram Shoudler, of Union, chairman of the board; Oliver D. Colvin, of Kinderhook; and Hiram Gardner, of Matteson. Mr. Gardner had been chosen the preceding autumn in place of Wales Adams of Bronson, and as stated in the sketch of Mr. Elisha Warren, the election had largely hinged on the county seat question.

The political issues involved had been settled, therefore, before the act of the legislature passed, and there was no delay after the act had been approved, on February 5th. The issue of the Coldwater Sentinel of February 11th contained the following paragraph: "The requisitions of the bill which has passed the present legislature to vacate the seat of justice and establish the same at the village of Coldwater have been complied with—the county commissioners have performed their duty under the law; and the result of their deliberations has been to drive the stake for the court house on a lot on the southeast corner of the public square, taking land for the jail a little east of the public square on land owned by Mr. James Shoecraft."

One other incident of the contest should be noted. It was provided that the jail at Branch should be used for the confinement of prisoners until one could be built at the new seat. Thus Branch retained a part of the county seat until the event recorded by the Sentinel of June 16, 1843: "The old court house and jail at Branch was destroyed by fire during the night of Sunday, the 11th. The building had not been in use by the county except as a jail since the removal of the county seat to this place. One room in the building was occupied as an office by Dr. H. B. Stillman. The fire was evidently the work of an incendiary, and circumstances having transpired to fasten suspicion on Lawson Woodward, a young man who had previously been confined in the prison, he was arrested," etc. Thus ended the first county seat. It has been asserted that the former prisoner was paid to burn the old building, the motives being, apparently, to destroy Branch's last claim to the seat of justice, and also perhaps to hasten the building of a jail at Coldwater. Until a new jail was provided, Branch county prisoners were kept in St. Joseph county.

Pursuant to the act for the removal of the seat of justice, the citizens of Coldwater had guaranteed three hundred dollars toward the erection of a county building, that sum representing the value of the structure at Branch. In October, 1843, the board of supervisors resolved to submit to the electors a proposition to raise four hundred dollars in addition to this sum of three hundred, with which to build a jail. But the people were not yet ready to vote money for county buildings, and this resolution and similar ones were negatived. In the spring of 1846 a proposition to expend a thousand dollars, besides the sum guaranteed by Coldwater, was approved by the votes of the

people. The jail was built in the summer of that year, and was accepted as completed in January, 1847. This old jail, which was built of heavy planking straight up and down, and riveted together, stood on the north side of Pearl street and about midway between Hudson and Jefferson streets. It was burned in April, 1859, while Sheriff David N. Green was residing in it. After the fire a barn that stood on the corner where the jail now stands was converted into a lock-up, and five or six years later that, too, was burned. A temporary wooden structure was then erected, and served as a jail until the present brick jail was erected in 1875. The present jail, which was built at a cost of $18,358.70, was constructed under the direction of a building committee of which the late Cyrus G. Luce was chairman, the other two members being the late Judge David N. Green and William P. Arnold. Their committee report was accepted by the board of supervisors on October 12, 1875.

COURT HOUSE.

More than six years elapsed from the time Coldwater became the county seat before a court house was erected. The various permanent officials had their quarters in hired rooms, while the courts were conducted in a rickety old building that occupied the site of the brick residence erected by the late Dr. J. H. Beach. During one of the presidential campaigns this building received the name of "Coon Pen." It was well entitled to this name, and bore it long after it was given up for court purposes.

The jail being the important public building, it was not until after that had been provided that the supervisors turned their attention to the erection of a court house. Resolutions were finally passed making the building of a court house a proposition to be voted on by the people of the county at the spring election of 1847. The vote cast in favor of the building was 824, with 797 votes against it. It is a noteworthy coincidence that this majority of 27 by which the building of the first court house in Coldwater was assured, was exactly duplicated forty years later, when the erection of the present court house was decided upon, 27 being the decisive number in both instances, although of course the total vote was much larger in 1887.

The old court house pictured on another page was accordingly erected in 1848, at a cost of five thousand dollars, being accepted by the supervisors in the fall of that year and first occupied for public purposes in December.

The court house erected by the county in 1848 served for the home of official business a generation of time, and then as the county developed there came a time when the building became unsuited to be the seat of a flourishing county like Branch. All this and more is recited in the preamble of a resolution offered for the consideration of the board of supervisors at their regular October session of 1885 by the committee on county poor and county property. This committee consisted of Elliston Warner, Jerome Corwin and C. C. Van Vorst. After describing the unsuitableness of the court house for its purposes, the lack of fire-proof offices for the keeping of the records, the impossibility of repairing the court house so as to accommodate the business

of the county, and calling the attention of the board to the cheapness of labor and material as opportune for the erection of a new building, the committee resolved "that the question of raising by tax upon said county the sum of $50,000, one-third of the same to be raised in each of the years 1886, 1887 and 1888, for the purpose of building a new court house, be submitted to the electors of Branch county at the next annual township meetings." The resolution was adopted without a dissenting vote.

When the real decision of the question came before the people of the county on April 5, 1886, an adverse majority of 687 was rendered against the proposition. Nothing more was done during that year, except to carry on the agitation and call for plans of a proposed building.

At the January session of 1887 Supervisor Warner offered another resolution, which was adopted by the board, to submit the matter of raising the required sum for the new court house to the people. Some of the supervisors had evidently been instructed by their constituents, for five votes were recorded against the resolution. This motion, it should be noticed, provided for the raising of the sum of fifty thousand dollars by loans instead of by tax, such loans to be paid with interest in five annual instalments on the first of February of the years 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892.

To safeguard the interests of the people another motion was then carried to the effect that "we as members of the board of supervisors pledge ourselves individually and collectively that in no event shall the amount expended in the erection of the court house exceed the sum of fifty thousand dollars."

The vote was taken in April, 1887. The people of the county were by no means unanimous, the canvass of votes showing 2,791 for and 2,764 against the proposition, so that the erection of a new court house was assured by a bare majority of 27.

The construction of the court house was entrusted to a building committee of five, elected by the supervisors from their own number. As the executive responsibility devolved on these men, it is proper that their names should be given in the history of the building that is still in use for county business. They were George W. Ellis, David B. Purinton, George Miller, M. B. Wakeman, and J. H. Davis.

It should also be noted that the block of land on which the court house and jail are now situated was squared off to its present proportions at this time, when the board purchased a lot of land fronting on Pearl street for seven rods and running north fifteen rods and three feet, "excepting a strip ten feet by sixty feet out of the southwest corner."

To finance the building operations it was resolved that bonds of five hundred dollars each to the amount of forty thousand dollars should be issued, dated July 1, 1887, with interest at five per cent, payable in four equal instalments on the first of March of each of the years 1889, 1890, 1891, and 1892. There were two local bids for the bonds, that accepted coming from Mr. George Starr and reading as follows: "I will give par and $425 with accrued interest to the first day of any month within one year from the date of bonds,

for the court house bonds in lots of ten thousand dollars until the whole amount of forty thousand dollars in said bonds are delivered to me."

The preliminary arrangements completed, the actual work of construction was soon begun. The plans of Mr. M. H. Parker, a Coldwater architect, were adopted, and at the June session of 1887 the committee was authorized to let the contract for the construction. In the following August the committee was authorized to tear down the old building, and provision was made for the accommodation of the various offices during the time of building, the clerk, sheriff, treasurer and superintendent of the poor being quartered in the old postoffice building, the register of deeds in another building, rooms in the Masonic block being rented for the judge of probate, while the circuit court sessions were held in Armory Hall.

Crocker and Hudnutt, of Big Rapids, Michigan, who were awarded the building contract as the lowest bidder, rapidly pushed the work of construction, and since the summer of 1888 the present court house has been in use for the transaction of all county business. The building committee made its final report on August 1, 1888, and a few days later the report was approved and the building formally accepted as complete. At that time the committee reported the total receipts for the building of the court house to be $52,098.99, and the total disbursements as $50,131.34, leaving a balance to the people of $1,976.65. Not only the financial management, but the entire transaction was creditable to those officially concerned.

CHAPTER XI.

SETTLEMENT AND BEGINNINGS (CONTINUED).

QUINCY.

The preceding pages have carried the narrative of settlement and beginnings along the Chicago road up to the last township traversed by that thoroughfare, namely, Quincy. One of the main propositions with which we started this account of settlement was the remarkable influence of the Chicago road. Nowhere is it more graphically illustrated than in the case of Quincy township. According to the original land entries, the locations for the year 1830 were chosen on sections 12, 13, 14, the last two sections being bisected by the road; the locations for 1832 were on section 15; those for 1833, on section 19; and those for 1834, on sections 17, 18 and 20—all being on or near the road. Only one circumstance can qualify in any way the deductions to be drawn from these facts—namely, that the best land for settlement lay along the central area traversed by the Chicago road, the "prairies" and the oak openings being situated in this portion, while both the north and the south sides of the township were originally heavily timbered.

The first settler who came along the road into this township was Horris Willson, who came from Detroit, where he had lived since 1825, his native place being Batavia, New York. His land purchase, which was the first in the township and was made in June, 1830, consisted of three hundred and twenty acres in one body but lying in sections 12, 13 and 14. Being a carpenter, with the assistance of a hired man, he constructed a house of hewn logs on the north side of the Chicago road in section 14, and soon afterward opened it to the public as a tavern. To quote the words of another, Mr. Willson "purchased the first land, built the first house, plowed the first furrow, planted the first corn, sowed the first oats, and kept the first tavern in the township of Quincy." He did not live long to enjoy the fruits of his pioneer labors. Ellis Russell kept the tavern for his widow after his death. Mr. Willson's daughter became the wife of Dr. E. G. Berry.

A pioneer whose connection with the township was longer and who became one of the prominent men in the early history of the county was James G. Corbus, who was born in Detroit in 1804, and came to Branch county in June, 1832. It has already been stated that he was a contractor during the summer of that year on a portion of the Chicago road in Bronson township, and it is possible that this work led him to locate in Branch county. Anyhow, in the fall of that year, he purchased some land in section 13, and on taking up his actual residence in 1833 he began the erection of the first frame house.

When this was completed it was also opened for the accommodation of the traveling public. This house was located on the north side of the Chicago road and almost opposite the road since called Maple street. The house stood for many years. In it was organized the first Sunday school and the first temperance society of the township. It afforded shelter to many of the workmen engaged in the construction of the Lake Shore railroad, which destroyed the importance of the Chicago road and at the same time took away the patronage of the inn. Mr. Corbus was the second treasurer of Branch county.

As already stated, the year 1832 showed a land entry on section 15, but as this has particular reference to the village of Quincy, it will be well to omit its consideration at present and speak first of the course of settlement in the other portions of the township.

On the western side of the township, in section 19, Joseph L. Hartsough entered land in 1833, and in this same section Rice T. Arnold, the father of William P. and Anselum, soon after purchased land. Henry Van Hyning entered land in section 17 in 1834, and about the same time settlement began in sections 18 and 20. Not until 1835 did the land entries reach beyond the central belt of the township. In that year sections 1 and 2, on the north, and section 30, showed entries, but by that time all of the two middle rows of sections were entered in whole or in part.

Quincy township and village have shown the slow and steady growth that marks the purely agricultural community. In the period of pioneer years which we are now discussing, scarcely any occupation was followed except farming. The population spread out over the thirty-six sections of the town, and in time, by a process of natural selection, began grouping around the civic center. Here settled at any early day some men of unusual personality and strength of character, whose influence was exerted for village life, and gradually there appeared such institutions as the church and school, the post-office, the store, and representatives of the trades and the professions. The point to be emphasized is, that for many years the community which became Quincy village was the central settlement of Quincy township and without the sharp distinctions which we have seen marked off the village of Coldwater so soon from the rest of the township. This natural growth and absence of rapid business changes may account in a measure for the appearance of permanence, of continuity in life and institutions, and the wholesome civic interest and pride, which impress themselves most definitely on one who studies and observes the history of Quincy village.

On October 16, 1832, the first land was entered in section 15, it being in the southwest corner of the section, with its west boundary the main street of Quincy village. The course of history, we might say the accidents of history, caused the locator of this land to be honored as the pioneer of Quincy village, the man who made the first improvements which the thousands of after generations would enjoy and carry on to greater development. This pioneer was John Cornish, who was living in Girard township at the time he made his land purchase at Quincy, being one of the pioneers of the former

township. He did not put up a log cabin and move his family to his new purchase until the fall of 1833. In the spring of 1834 he began the erection of a frame house on the north side of the Chicago road and where Main street now intersects that thoroughfare, this being the site of the present "Quincy House." As soon as this house was ready he opened it as a tavern. That event marked a beginning. Travelers along the road, on reaching the beautiful prairie which surrounded this house, chose to stop there for entertainment. Being situated at the center of the township, the electors made the Cornish tavern the place of their first township meeting. Mr. Cornish was moderator at that meeting and was elected one of the justices of the peace. He rented his tavern in the spring of 1836 to Pearson Anson, and soon after sold the property to Joseph Berry, and then lived in his first log house until he could move to a new home on a farm in the township.

But for the first year after the establishment of his tavern, Mr. Cornish was practically alone so far as permanent neighbors were concerned. Other parts of the county were attracting the majority of the immigrants. But in 1835, a year which gave hundreds of strong and able citizens to Branch county, Quincy township and especially its central area received a great impulse in settlement.

In 1834 Joseph Berry, one of the several sons of Samuel Berry, the family being originally from New Hampshire but at this time residents of Chautauqua county, New York, had come to Branch county and spent the summer at the Arnold home in east Coldwater township. His enthusiastic descriptions of this region, recited again and again when he had returned to his home in New York state, were sufficient to induce all the Berry family to become pioneers. The father came out in the spring of 1835 and after prospecting as far west as Illinois, in the summer purchased land in the northeast corner of section 21 and began building a frame house near the Chicago road. In the same spring his son, Enos G., had come to Branch county, and in the fall Joseph arrived with the household effects. Ezra, the youngest of the boys, then fifteen years old, arrived about the same time, having driven the two cows that belonged to the family the entire distance from New York to Michigan.

The Berry home, which was located on the south side of the road about three-quarters of a mile west of Main street, became a hotel, and the boy Ezra assisted his father in its management. In 1836 the hotel was leased to another party, and Mr. Samuel Berry built for his home a small house a few rods east. This house is also of historic importance, for when the first postoffice was established in this vicinity it was located at the Berry home, in 1837. Dr. Enos G. Berry was the first postmaster, and it is of well established tradition that a bushel basket was the receptacle in which the mail was kept. Ezra Berry, however, performed the active duties of the office, and was generally called upon to examine the contents of the basket.

The Berry family, father and sons, owned most of the land on which the village of Quincy was afterwards built. Samuel and Dr. E. G. were the original purchasers of a large part of section 21, and Joseph Berry bought of

John Cornish the southwest corner of section 15, and also owned a large part of section 22. At the time now under consideration this part of the township had few evidences of village life. Dr. Berry was the physician for the people of the vicinity, besides being postmaster. In 1835 Daniel Bagley had arrived at the settlement. Buying an acre of ground from Mr. Cornish, he put up a frame house on the north side of the Chicago road and on the south side a blacksmith shop, where he attended to the mechanical needs of the community. This was located where Dally street now intersects Chicago road. Consequently, a blacksmith shop, a postoffice, two hotels and a physician were the elements of village life that would have been found here in 1837.

But several other settlers had come in during 1836 and 1837 who were to take a prominent part in the affairs of this township. In 1835 John Broughton, a native of Vermont, had come from Lorain county, Ohio, and had located on the Chicago road just over the line in Coldwater township. In the double log house which stood adjacent to the brick kiln (one of the first brick-making establishments in the county), he kept a tavern for the first year, but in 1836 moved to the Quincy settlement. On the north side of the Chicago road, about opposite what is now Grove street, Silas Hamilton (who was a settler of the fall of 1835) had begun the erection of a large log house. This was still unfinished when Mr. Broughton bought the property, completed the building, and moved his family to the new home in December, 1836. Just across the road from the Broughton home, the same Mr. Hamilton had erected a little shanty to serve as his first shelter, and here, about 1837, a cobbler named Thomas Valier had a shoe shop.

One other settler in 1836 deserves mention. James M. Burdick, who came to Branch county and spent the year 1831 in the employ of Abraham F. Bolton near Coldwater, and then lived in Hillsdale county for several years, moved to Quincy township in the spring of 1836, locating on section 24, which was his home during many years of worthy citizenship.

During all this time the area of the present Quincy township had not been organized separately, and as we know, the first Quincy township comprised also what are now Algansee and California. Therefore, at the first town meeting, which occurred in April, 1836, some of the men who took part were resident south of the present south line of the township. But almost all the officers chosen came from the settlers whose names have been mentioned, the first official list of the township comprising the following: Enos G. Berry, David W. Baker, John Cornish, James G. Corbus, Samuel Beach, Samuel H. Berry, Luther Briggs, James Adams, Joseph T. Burnham, Pearson Anson, James M. Burdick, Griswold Burnham, Conrad Rapp, Thomas Wheeler, Joseph L. Hartsough.

In October, 1837, Quincy township, still comprising an area of two full townships and one fractional, had 569 inhabitants. Just what per cent of these lived in the present township of Quincy cannot be stated, but it is certain that they were the great majority, and furthermore that they lived in the sections convenient to the Chicago road. This concentration of population is further proved by the location of the first three schools of the town-

ship. The first school house, of logs, was built in 1837 on land now owned by the railroad in Quincy village; the second, built the same year, was in the "Hog Creek district," in the eastern part of the township; and the third, in 1838, was at the west edge of section 20 on the Chicago road.

Bishop Chase and Gilead Township.

The Chicago road was the avenue by which Bishop Philander Chase came to Branch county. The story of his settlement in Gilead, apart from the importance attaching to it as the historical beginning of Gilead township, is of even more interest for the threads of fact concerning the county in general and the conditions and customs of the time.

Bishop Philander Chase was born in Cornish, New Hampshire, in 1775, graduated from Dartmouth College in 1795, studied for the ministry of the Episcopal church, and in 1819 was consecrated bishop of Ohio, the first bishop of the Episcopal church west of the Alleghany mountains. He was the founder of Kenyon College in Ohio, which is regarded as his greatest achievement, but which was also the source of his greatest personal disappointment. For, being unable to carry out his plans for that institution because of the interference and persecution from his enemies, he felt it his duty to resign the episcopate of the diocese and the presidency of the college, which he did in September, 1831. On Easter day of 1832 he administered holy communion for the last time in Ohio, and on the following morning set out on horseback with a friend, Bezaleel Wells, with the intention of visiting a son of the latter at Prairie Ronde in Kalamazoo county, Michigan. It was also a half-expressed hope of the bishop to find in the course of his explorations a region where he might found a home and build up the institutions of the church and education in accordance with the plans which were still so cherished by him.

Going to Monroe and from there to Adrian and to the Chicago road, the party came on through Jonesville, Coldwater and Bronson's prairie. At this point we may quote the bishop's own "Reminiscences," written in 1847, only a few years before his death. "It was Friday night when they reached a place called Adams' Mills on one of the streams of the St. Joseph river. 'And who is this?' said the landlord of the log-cabin tavern to Mr. Wells, in a low voice. 'Is he come out to purchase lands?' 'He may purchase if he finds some that suits him.' Mr. Judson, for that was the man's name, then strode through the room and raising his voice, said aloud, as if still speaking to Mr. Wells, 'Much more beautiful scenery and richer land are to be found in this neighborhood than further west. And men would find it so if they would only stop, go about and examine.' These words were meant for the ear of the writer. He took them so and inquired, 'Where is this good land you speak of?' 'Within eight miles of this, to the southeast, there is a charming, limpid lake, surrounded with rising burr-oak and prairie lands, interspersed with portions of lofty timber for building. The streams are of clear and running water, and like the lake, abound in the finest kind of fish; and

what is quite an essential point, these lands are now open for market, and (except some choice sugar-tree eighties already taken by persons from Indiana) may be entered by anyone going to White Pigeon where the land office is kept.' 'Will you show me these lands if I stay with you a day or two?' 'If I do not, Mr. Adams, the owner of the saw mill, will. I will furnish him with a horse; and Thomas Holmes, who lives near us, shall go along with you on foot with his rifle to kill game and keep off the wolves.' * * *

"The next day was Saturday. Notice was given to the few settlers in the neighborhood of these then solitary mills that divine service would be celebrated and a sermon preached on the morrow. The day proved fine and nearly all the inhabitants attended. This was the first time the prayer book had ever been used for public worship in all the St. Joseph country.

"On Monday Mr. Judson's pony was made ready, and Mr. Adams and Thomas Holmes were in waiting. The weather was mild and the streams of water soon crossed. The path we fell on was an old Indian trail leading from northwest to southeast. On this trail we had traveled mostly through grass land, thinly studded with trees, till the eight miles spoken of by Mr. Judson were judged to have been finished; when, on the left of us, we came in sight of a lake of pure water and sloping banks thinly covered with trees, having grass under them all around. The lake itself was of an irregular shape, and about a mile and a half long. It had a promontory running into it, covered with trees of peculiar majestic shape, in the manner of the finest rookeries in England. * * * All things were like magic. Such charming scenery seemed to rivet the beholder to the spot. This was no wonder; for it was the first time that any such lands had ever met his eye.

"The remainder of the day was spent in riding round this charming region, which the writer named 'Gilead;' a name it still bears. Before night a family was discovered to have just moved on to these beautiful grounds; a few logs had been rolled one upon the other, around a space of nine or ten feet square, and a covering put over it, six feet high on one side and five feet high on the other. In this was Mr. John Croy, his wife and three or four children. * * *

"The writer soon after this went to the land office, thirty miles to the west, and entered and paid for a farm in this charming land of Gilead, including the promontory, or 'English Rookery' just described. The price was one dollar and a quarter per acre, and no more. As he returned from White Pigeon he engaged a carpenter to find materials and draw them to the newly named place, Gilead, sixteen miles, and put up and cover a framed room for a ploughman and his family, fourteen feet square. The ploughman was hired nearly at the same time to break up fifty acres of prairie turf-land. All this was accomplished in a short time, so as to allow of a crop of sod corn and potatoes the same year. This was very difficult to accomplish, having little help in planting besides himself, for all the neighbors in the surrounding settlements were called to bear arms in the 'Sac War' then raging in the state of Illinois, with the famous Black Hawk as its head."

After the planting was over the bishop went back to his family in Ohio, and then returned to Gilead with his sons in July, 1832. They set to work hewing timber and framing it for a house of five rooms, digging a cellar, and making preparations for the arrival of the rest of the family. He also looked out a proper place for a saw mill, which he selected on Prairie river at the outlet of Island Pond on the east side of section 4, and purchased the adjacent woodland. This was the first saw mill in the town, and the site continued to be used until recently. The bishop says in his reminiscences: "The fenced fields were enlarged, and every year produced more and more. The number of horned cattle increased to more than one hundred. A mill was buit on the stream, for the preparing of lumber to erect a schoolhouse; and all things seemed to flourish and succeed beyond his fondest expectation."

The home of Bishop Chase while in Gilead was located on the west line of section 9, at the site of the present residence of Mr. Ed Keeslar. When preparing to erect his house a few years ago, Mr. Kesslar discovered the remains of the foundation of the Chase house. At one spot he found a depression that required several loads of earth to make solid, and at this point no doubt was located the well or perhaps the cellar. As mentioned in the chapter on education, a schoolhouse was built, and this stood to the south of the residence, and just west of where Mr. Kesslar's barn now stands.

The bishop remained in this place of "exile" as he felt it to be, for three years. He attracted many other settlers to this township and his work as a pioneer must not be underestimated, but so far as founding a church or carrying out any other ambitious plans he may have cherished on coming here, his success was little and the members of his church numbered only a handful. Then in the spring of 1835 came his appointment as bishop of the newly formed diocese of Illinois, and his acceptance preceded by only a few months the removal of his home and active influence from Branch county. He went to Illinois to look over the field of work, and on returning to Gilead made preparations for a visit to England, where he spent the fall and winter of 1835 in soliciting subscriptions for his new work.

While in England the bishop received a letter from his wife in Gilead which cannot fail to be of interest to those who prize the history of that portion of Branch county. This letter, containing so many side-lights on the Gilead community, was dated December 23, 1835, and reads in part as follows:

"Last Saturday night we went to bed in apparent security, but about twelve o'clock a slight noise, like the kindling of a fire in a stove, startled me. I sprang from bed and throwing open the dining room door, saw the flames had burst from the upper part of the chimney into the garret. A cry of fire instantly assembled all the family. A tub of water was in the kitchen, and three pailsful in as many seconds were thrown on the fire. It was, I saw, in vain; the fire had seized the roof; and I bid them lose no time but throw out as fast as possible. My first care was your sermon box, and then the box of English letters, with your letters to myself from England, certificates, and three hundred dollars in money received for sales of cattle.

"The most of our beds and clothing were saved. * * * That we saved so much is more to be wondered at than that the rest perished, when I assure you that in the judgment of the family five minutes was the utmost allowed us from the first alarm, until safety compelled us to abandon the building. The west wind soon wrapped the back kitchen in flames, from which they saved but one bag of flour. By tearing down the board flaming fence the ruin was stayed, and the schoolhouse and milkhouse were preserved. As soon as things were moved back near the well, we had our beds taken to the schoolhouse, had a candle lighted, and tried to preserve our health by wrapping up in blankets. * * *

"With the help of Mr. Glass and sons, a partition has been nailed up (in the schoolhouse), the floor laid double, two windows put in, and every hour adds something to our comfort. * * * Bennie, the Scotchman, served us faithfully; the other poor fellow, a Dutchman, who was hired for a few days, on hearing the alarm, like most weak-minded persons, was so bewildered that, instead of going down stairs, which were perfectly safe, he threw himself out of the window without even raising the sash. It is a wonder he did not break his neck."

Until June, 1836, the family lived in the schoolhouse (which remained standing until 1877 and was used as a dwelling within the memory of many now living). The bishop returned on the 28th of June, and a few days later the family departed, by way of Chicago road, for the west. Thus ended the Bishop Chase episode in Gilead history and the romantic settlement which was the starting point of the township.

Gilead Township.

In a passage already quoted, Bishop Chase mentioned the Indian trail which he followed southeast from Adams Mills (in section 29 of Bronson), to Gilead lake. By noticing some of the settlers who followed the bishop into Gilead, it will be seen that this trail was the important route that directed the pioneers. Abishi Sanders, one of the prominent Gilead pioneers and the first supervisor of that township, came along the Chicago road from Marion county, Ohio, about the same time as the bishop, and on reaching Bronson's prairie, turned aside and followed the trail into Gilead, where he entered two hundred and forty acres of land in sections 8 and 18.

In one of her letters to the bishop Mrs. Chase mentions her neighbors, the Booth family. Benjamin Booth started from Onondaga county, New York, and came first to Oakland county, Michigan, whence he journeyed along with another Gilead pioneer, William Purdy, both intent on finding a suitable place of settlement. Arriving at Bronson in the spring of 1832, they heard of Bishop Chase and decided to make him a visit. Delighted with the beautiful country about Lake Gilead, and especially with the burr-oak openings, Mr. Booth entered land and built what was the second frame house in the township, on the south shore of Gilead lake. Mr. Purdy likewise made settlement, being the first blacksmith of that community.

In Mrs. Chase's letter describing the burning of the home, she mentions the faithfulness of Mr. Bennie, who was then in the employ of the Chase establishment. This was James Bennie, who with his brother-in-law, John McKinley—both names being familiar to Gilead citizens—had come from Scotland, and after spending a few years in New York state came to Gilead in 1833. Mr. McKinley made his first location on section 8, while Mr. Bennie soon moved into Bethel.

It is easy to see how settlers coming from the same locality in the east would tend to settle down in adjacent communities at the end of their western migration. The necessary isolation of pioneer life would be overcome to some extent by the grouping together of families who had been associated in their old homes. This fact seems to find illustration in the number of families which Onondaga county, New York, furnished to the early settlement of Gilead. Included in the number are the well known names of Benjamin Booth, Francis Bull, the Marsh family—Wallace, Daniel, Ebenezer and John—and William Sweeting, all of whom came early and settled about Lake Gilead, on sections 5, 6, 7, 8 and 18.

Thus the first Gilead community was formed on the high rolling land about the lake. But in entering this part of the county, some followed the Indian trail on across the low, marshy land to the east of the Chase settlement, and locating near the east line of the township, formed the nucleus of East Gilead. The first of these was Ezekiel Fuller, who settled near the Kinderhook line. In 1836 came Benjamin S. Wilkins, who took up land in section 13. And in the same year Samuel Arnold, from New York state, located at the southeast corner of section 11. His name became distinctive of the locality of "Arnold's Corners," now East Gilead.

By the census of October, 1837, there were 184 persons in Gilead township. The greater number of these were at the original settlement, the Arnold's Corners community being just at the beginning of its growth. A postoffice had been located at the Chase home in 1834, and in some other directions progress was being made from the first stages of pioneer existence. Included in this census, besides the families of those already named, were probably Don C. Mather, who lived near the south side of the town and was a millwright by trade; Burr D. Gray, a carpenter and joiner, who built some of the early houses of Gilead; Obed Dickinson, who, having stopped over night at the old Taylor Tavern on the Chicago road, was induced to buy land in Bethel and Gilead, and who at this time had the largest log house in the vicinity; and Job Williams, whose three hundred acres of land were on the north shore of Lake Gilead.

Girard Township.

As concerns fertility of soil, ease of cultivation and drainage, beautiful Girard prairie, seventy-five years ago as to-day, was one of the garden spots of Branch county. There is little doubt that at one time this level area was the bed of a large lake, whose waters were hemmed in by the encircling hills

on all sides until finally a cleft was made for the outlet at the western end, a short distance west of the Hodunk mills and the junction of the Coldwater and Hog creek streams. When this shore line was torn apart, the waters gradually escaped and left a beautifully level floor, soon to be overspread by luxuriant vegetation, in which state it remained until the appearance of white settlers.

Without conspicuous advantages of nature, Girard prairie would not have been one of the first spots chosen for settlement in the county. It was situated five or six miles north of the Chicago road. It was not in the line of migration. Yet Girard's history is practically contemporaneous in its beginnings with that of Bronson and Coldwater townships. The excellence of the locality for agricultural purposes offered attractions to home-seekers which no other parts of the county could surpass, and thus it is that Girard was one of the first townships to be organized.

By reference to the account of the civil organization of the townships, it will be seen that when Girard was organized in 1834 it contained the entire north tier of townships; that in 1836 this long strip was cut in half and that until 1838 Girard township comprised what is now Butler and Girard. Consequently, the census of October, 1837, which gave 448 inhabitants to Girard, included also the settlers in the present township of Butler. But with few exceptions the families enumerated at that date lived in the central area of Girard township.

The Corbus family was the first and best known of Girard's pioneers. Joseph C. and Richard W. Corbus, leaving Detroit, their native home, came along the Chicago road as far as Hillsdale county in 1828. In the following spring Richard W. came to Girard prairie. The specific reasons that brought him thither are not assigned, but it was good judgment that directed him to choose that place for his home. He did not remain alone for long, and he was only the first of a group of strong and worthy pioneers.

From a preceding chapter we know that an Indian village existed on the prairie at this time. It consisted of about twenty huts and a large dance house, and was located near the northwest corner of section 22. The Indians were very friendly, were generous in sharing what they had, and in one of the rough houses which was not then in use by an Indian family, Mr. Corbus, with his mother and niece, made his first home. He at once went to work to build a log house of his own, on section 21, and in about six weeks after his arrival it was completed and ready for occupancy. Richard, though the first settler, remained only until 1831, when, having made an exchange of property with his brother, he returned to Hillsdale county, while Joseph C. continued the name and activity of the Corbus family in Girard. His brother John also settled with him, but lived only a year or so. Joseph C. Corbus was one of the most prominent of pioneers, and his name often figures in township and county history.

Thus the first white settlement was located near where the village of Girard has since grown up. This was the favorite locality, and was known as the "east prairie," to distinguish it from the "west prairie" settlement,

which was nearer the forks of the Coldwater river and Hog creek. Edward S. Hanchett became a neighbor of Mr. Corbus in the fall of 1830, locating in section 22, and in July, 1831, section 15 received a noted settler in the person of James B. Tompkins, the surveyor who platted the village of Coldwater, who became the first supervisor of Girard township, and whose own career and that of his descendants is identified most honorably with this part of the county. His land was partly in section 15 and partly in section 22, being covered in part by the present village. John Cornish, the Quincy pioneer heretofore mentioned, had come here about the same time, but was not a permanent settler. William McCarty, the first sheriff of Branch county, also settled on section 15 in 1831.

Another well known family that settled on the "east prairie" before the census of 1837 was taken was the Van Blarcums, consisting of the father, William, and his sons, Joseph, John, Abram and William W. The first entry of land in section 16 was made in 1837 by Aura Smith, who had come from Saratoga county, New York. He opened the first stock of goods in the township and made the beginning of commercial enterprise for the village of Girard.

The "west prairie" settlement was just as large and important, and almost as early, as the one just described. On the west side of section 20 Henry Van Hyning had located in the latter part of 1830, and in January, 1831, Martin Barnhart, whose name has already figured in other connections with this narrative, located on the section to the north, section 17. Barnhart was from Wayne county, New York, and from the same county was John Parkinson, who settled on section 18, and was the first postmaster of this portion of the county.

Section 20 was also the first home of Benjamin H. Smith, so well known to the early annals of this township. A native of New Jersey, he came from Wayne county, New York, to Michigan in 1829, and in 1831 settled in Girard. He was an associate of Abram Aldrich, Martin Barnhart, James B. Tompkins, J. W. Mann and Lyman Fox in the first mill building in the township. Other "west prairie" settlers were Samuel and James Craig, who came in the spring of 1831 and moved into the partially completed log house begun by Mr. Van Hyning on section 20.

Abram and Asa Aldrich, whose names receive mention in connection with other localities and other affairs, were settlers on section 19 in 1833, and helped to increase the number of aggressive men who were bent on developing this part of the county.

In the line of public improvements the most important early event in the history of Girard township was the establishment, in the summer of 1831, of what has ever since been known as the "Marshall road." This is the thoroughfare that bisects the township from north to south, passing through the village of Girard, and continuing on till it meets the Chicago road at Coldwater. Furnishing the route of immigration to the fertile Girard prairie, as well as the means of ready communication with Coldwater and the central Chicago road, the Marshall road proved a great boon to the devel-

opment and growth of this township. This road was surveyed by James B. Tompkins, and was opened by the commissioners of highways, William H. Cross and Edward S. Hanchett, all well known to the early history of the county.

When the first township meeting was held, April 7, 1834, Girard was, as already mentioned, four times as large as now. Several items from the record of that meeting throw light on the history of the township. The first is that it was held in a schoolhouse, situated in the present Girard village. Furthermore, all of those who took official part in the proceedings, with one and perhaps two exceptions, were settlers in the area of present Girard township and on the two "prairies." John Parkinson was the moderator and Joseph C. Corbus the clerk. The others who were chosen for officers were James B. Tompkins, Benjamin H. Smith, Justus Goodwin (from what later became Union township), James G. Corbus, William Aldrich, Robert Waldron, James McCarty, Stephen Hickox, Samuel Craig, Asa Aldrich, James Craig, Martin Barnhart. It was resolved to hold the next town meeting at the house of "Mr. Aldrich, at the mill," which was the mill on the site of Hodunk.

From the Girard prairie as the nucleus the settlement spread out over the rest of the township, and by the end of the thirties every section had one or more settlers. Some of the pioneers of this period who have not been mentioned were: Jabez Aldrich, Harris H. Aldrich, Hains Aldrich, Lyman Aldrich, Stephen Birdsall, D. B. Ogden, Israel Hoag, Samuel Estlow, William Barker, David Stanton, John Strong, Allen Cobb, Christian Estlow, Chauncey Barnes, John Worden, John Moore, Backus Fox, Cornelius Van Aken, John B. Mason, Jacob W. Mann, Lyman Fox, Robert Gorbal, Peter I. Mann.

Girard township has always retained its value and importance as an agricultural center. It was one of the first townships to have a grange organization, and some of the best known farmers of the county have had their home in Girard.

Butler Township.

In marked contrast with the settlement of Girard was that of Butler. The first settler came to Girard prairie in 1829; it was six years after that before permanent settlers located in Butler. In Girard the first settlements were in one locality. No conspicuous grouping of settlers can be observed in Butler. Girard prairie was beautifully level, comparatively free from heavy timber, and had a natural drainage. Butler township, with the exception of "Shook's prairie" in sections 26 and 27, was densely wooded; the topography such that large areas were under water or in a swampy condition, and, as elsewhere stated, Butler township has received incalculable benefits from the public drainage works.

Such natural conditions did not favor early settlement. And yet when the era of settlement was completed and the population of the county had assumed something like its present standard, Butler township had a few more inhabitants than Girard. Its property valuation has increased to a remarkable extent since the introduction of scientific drainage. The forests have

been cleared off and given place to fine farms. Some of the most productive land in the township was formerly swamp and considered unfit for any industrial purpose. The township is agricultural; a very small part of the population is grouped in the two hamlets known as Butler and South Butler. Several stave and heading and cooperage mills and saw mills have found a natural field in this township at various periods of history, but aside from this department of manufacture the industry of the township has been almost entirely the tilling of the soil. With this general understanding of the town's history as a whole, we may speak briefly of the period of beginnings and the first settlers.

Wayne county, New York, furnished a majority of the pioneers of Butler township, which was given its name to commemorate the home town of Butler, New York. From Wayne county came Caleb Wilcox, the first settler, who found a home in section 2 in the spring of 1836; he did not remain long, but sold out to Charles C. Hayes and moved away.

The southeast corner of the township was favored with settlement about the same time. In sections 26 and 27 settled Jacob Shook, whose name figures in county history as one of the few county judges that Branch county had. He was also prominent in township affairs. At the same time Robert Wood settled in the same locality, buying land in sections 35 and 36. All three of the men mentioned were from Wayne county, New York. George Lockwood came to this part of the town in the fall of 1836 and for half a century was a well known citizen.

Calhoun county on the north furnished not a few early settlers to Butler, among these being the Rossman family, consisting of Isaac, the father, and the sons, Thomas J., Solander and William, who had located in Calhoun county about 1833, and all came to Butler township before 1839. From the same county came Henry S. Lampman, another well known pioneer of Butler, who was originally from Green county, New York, and who spent several years in Calhoun county before removing to Butler in December, 1836.

John T., Asa and Charles M. Wisner were active and influential in early township and business affairs; Asa being the first township clerk and Charles M. the first school teacher. David Lindsay, the first supervisor, who located on section 15, opened the first store at what is now South Butler (then known as Whig Center) in 1843.

The first town meeting was held at David Lindsay's house in April, 1838. There were only twenty voters in the town. Most of these received office, and the names of those who were burdened with the official managment of the town for the first year of its organized existence will be a fairly complete record of the pioneer settlers. They were: John T. Wisner, southeast Butler; Jesse Bowen, sec. 36; Asa R. Wisner, sec. 24; Tyler McWhorter, sec. 35; David Lindsay, sec. 15; Jacob Shook, sees. 26 and 27; T. J. Rossman, sec. 14; Charles M. Wisner, sec. 24; Solander Rossman, secs. 12 and 13; Henry S. Lampman, sec. 14; Daniel Shook, sec. 26; Caleb Wilcox.

CHAPTER XII.

SETTLEMENT AND BEGINNINGS (CONTINUED).

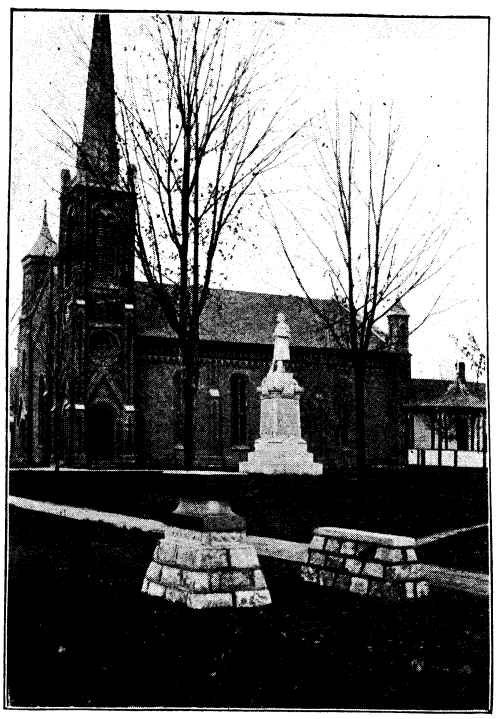
UNION TOWNSHIP.

In October, 1837, the number of persons residing in Union township was 260. The town had already been organized with its present boundaries, so those figures apply to the Union township as we now know it. The population has since increased more than ten times, and material development has been even greater.

Though topographically one of the most attractive townships in the county, Union was not easily accessible for several years after the heavy stream of immigration began and the dense woods that covered its fertile soil were here, as in Butler and elsewhere, an impediment to early settlement. The abundant water power furnished by the St. Joseph and Coldwater rivers had undoubtedly induced a considerable proportion of the first inhabitants to locate in this town. The principal centers of settlement were at the junction of the Coldwater with the St. Joseph—Union City—at the junction of Hog creek with Coldwater river—the Hodunk community—and the more open country in the southwest part of the township.

The Chicago road could not influence settlement in this township to the extent that was true of the townships previously described. The State road, that follows an angling course from Hodunk to Union City, forming part of the route from Kalamazoo to the state line, was not authorized until 1837. Communication with the central part of the county was by the haphazard windings of Indian trails or blazed paths through the woods. The first regular road into Union township was probably the state road that followed the course of the old Washtenaw Indian trail, and was laid out in 1834 from Jackson to White Pigeon through Union City. This road and its predecessor, the Indian trail, as well as the St. Joseph river, which was utilized for transportation to no inconsiderable extent in the early days, brought north Union township in connection with Calhoun and other second-tier counties and many of the earlier settlers came along that way. The building of the railroad, in 1870, along practically the same route strengthened the commercial connection with the towns and cities along that line.

It was at the confluence of the Coldwater and the St. Joseph rivers that settlement was first made. Because of its accessibility by water this spot had been conspicuous for many years. Perhaps the French missionaries of the eighteenth century had penetrated this far, and it is reasonably certain that French traders had a trading post at this point. A successor to these Indian



Congregational Church and Soldiers' Monument, Union City

traders, John Clawson, was located at the mouth of the Coldwater about 1830, and it has been customary to grant him the honor of being the first settler in Union township.

About 1831 Isaiah W. Bennett, a well known pioneer character and the founder of the city of Jackson, and Jeremiah Marvin bought a large tract of land about the forks of the two rivers. They understood the advantages offered by the site for commercial and industrial development, and bought the land with the intention no doubt of personally exploiting a village at this point. Bennett did not locate here until 1834. He kept the old Union City House in 1837, and later a store on the southwest corner of Broadway and High streets.

In the meantime, in 1833, the first permanent settler had come to the site of Union City. He purchased of Bennett and Marvin a large tract of land, including the present site of the business section, and began the work of improvement. According to his own notes, when he came here in May, 1833, with the exception of two settlers and a few settlers on Dry prairie there were no persons between his location and Homer, all being "an unbroken wilderness, chiefly government land, and no road made nor even laid out."

Let the historical notes of Mr. Goodwin carry the narrative a little further: "Early in the fall of 1834 J. Goodwin, having agreed to build and sell a saw mill at Union to I. W. Bennett, commenced improving the water power by making a race and building a saw mill.(the mill being located south of the Coldwater road and about where the municipal power plant now stands). In doing this work—or rather the first part of it—though from ten to twenty men were at work, there was no woman at Union. * * * About the first of December of that year a postoffice was established by the name of Goodwinsville, and J. Goodwin appointed postmaster, who held that office until 1846."

In November, 1833, Mr. Goodwin had sold to E. W. Morgan of Ann Arbor 322 acres of land, and in 1835 Mr. Morgan platted a village to which the name Goodwinsville was given, the plat being recorded August 27, 1835. This was the first plat. In the spring of 1837 the "village of Union City" was platted on a "two hundred acre tract" that had been purchased by a company of eastern men with the purpose of founding a village and developing the mill facilities of the place. The men most prominent in this transaction were Israel W. Clark and Isaac M. Dimond, both of whom came here in 1838 and with a large force of men began extensive improvements. The water power was improved and both a saw and a grist mill built. A store was established by the company, in addition to one or two that had been conducted previously by individuals. The "company" store, which was kept by John N. Stickney, was located on the northeast corner of Broadway and High streets, opposite the hotel.

Other settlers during the pioneer period of Union City, were various members of the well known Hurd family, some of whom lived over the line in Calhoun county but whose interests were closely identified with Union

City—namely, Homer C. Hurd, Dr. William P. Hurd and Dr. Theodore C. Hurd. Chester Hammond, originally from Chenango county, New York, located in Union City in 1836. His son, Charles G. Hammond, was agent for the company that purchased the village site in January, 1837, and he did as much to establish the town and further its interests as any other pioneer citizen.

From this chief center, whose subsequent history will be recorded elsewhere, we turn to other portions of the township. In the history of Girard we have alluded to the prominence of the Aldrich family as settlers and citizens on the west side of the prairie. Abram Aldrich, who had located and purchased lands on Girard prairie in 1833, built his home just over the town line in Union township, and became the first settler at what became known as Orangeville and later as Hodunk. Here, near the confluence of the Coldwater and Hog creek, he built a saw mill. Lumber from this mill went into buildings in many parts of the county. When James G. Corbus, the Quincy pioneer, built his frame house in 1833, he obtained his lumber from this mill. Several years later Mr. Aldrich built a grist mill, which was a story and a half in height. It was the second grist mill in the county, and began grinding in 1837. Its product was superior to that turned out by the old Black Hawk mill at Branch, and it drew a large patronage from all over the county. This mill was the predecessor of the present "Hodunk Roller Mills," a five-story structure, which was erected by Roland Root in 1847, after the first mill had burned. Nearly sixty years of use have caused many changes in the Hodunk mill. The old millstones have been removed, modern roller processes have been introduced, and the old-fashioned water wheel has given place to the powerful turbine. The mill building is a striking witness of these changes of more than half a century, for some of the old machinery is still to be found on the floors, and the location of former mechanical parts and their wear on the woodwork have not been entirely obliterated.

In the southwestern part of the township there settled beginning with 1836 a very prominent group of men, including Alpheus Saunders, Lewis Hawley, David Kilbourn, Archibald and W. M. Mitchell. Two other names that have been closely identified with this part of the township as well as with Union City are those of Lincoln and Buell, Thomas B., Chauncey and Justus Buell came to Union City in 1836, their original home having been Chenango county, New York. Thomas and Chauncey purchased land in section 30. Justice Buell came to the township with Charles A. Lincoln, who was also from Chenango county and became a well known and useful citizen in this county. He was a carpenter and helped build the first Union City House and the Red Schoolhouse, and spent many years of his life on section 17. Caleb Lincoln, his brother, is also well remembered as one of Union's pioneer citizens.

In April, 1837, the first town meeting was held in the town of Union, and the names of the official participants no doubt represent the principal heads of families who were enumerated under the census of 1837. Chester Hammond was moderator of the meeting, while Briant Bartlett was clerk,

and the inspectors of election were Alpheus Saunders, Isaiah W. Bennett and Lewis Hawley. Then the list of officers chosen for the succeeding year included, besides these, the following pioneers: Solomon Parsons, James Pendell, Henry Reaser, Rufus Hill, Thomas Buell, Henry W. Potter, Archibald M. Mitchell, Carpenter Chaffee, Gideon Smith, Chauncey Buell.

Sherwood Township.

The pioneer history of Sherwood township has more in common with Calhoun county than with Branch. Here the influence of topography and means of communication upon settlement is seen with peculiar emphasis. The north tier of sections in Sherwood belongs, topographically, to "Dry Prairie," which is also a conspicuous feature of Athens township in Calhoun county. From a reference already stated in the history of Union township, it is known that Dry prairie was one of the early settled regions. It had a considerable group of settlers as early as 1832, though nearly all lived in Calhoun county.

This region of oak openings and arable land was not the only reason for early settlement. The "territorial" road that pursues an angling course from Union City westward along the northern part of this township into St. Joseph county was laid out about 1834. An old Indian trail was its basis. This was a much traveled route, and many emigrants along its course chose homes in Sherwood township. Another important early road was that which followed approximately along the northern bank of the St. Joseph river.

It was in the northern sections of the town, therefore, that the first settlers located. The first was Alexander E. Tomlinson, who in the spring of 1832 left his home in "Sherwood Forest," England, and in the following July arrived at Dry prairie. When this township was organized four years later he was allowed to give it the name which suggested his English home.

In section 2, Mr. F. C. Watkins located a farm in 1835, and on the territorial road kept for eighteen years what was well known as the "log tavern." The settlement increased rapidly and Sherwood had a considerable population before its neighbor, Union, had fairly started. Among the names of early pioneers may be mentioned Joseph D. Lane, Clement Russell, Robert Waldron, who came in 1833; Joseph Russell and William Minor, in 1834; Thomas West, Geo. Moyer, Benjamin Blossom, in 1835; followed in the next few years by John Giltner, Thomas Lee, John and Nahum Sargent, David Keyes, David R. Cooley, Ira Palmer, and many others. I. D. Beall, afterward so well known in the public affairs of his township, settled along the St. Joseph road in section 30 in 1837.

All these settlers were north of the St. Joseph river, and the central group was on Dry prairie. John Onderdonk and Ephraim Plank were probably the only settlers living south of the river who were enumerated in the census of October, 1837, at which time Sherwood township had 217 inhabitants. This number was only slightly less than the similar census figures in Union. The latter township began to be settled at a later date,

but grew more rapidly each succeeding decade, until in 1870 it showed twice as many inhabitants as Sherwood.

The first township meeting of Sherwood (with the government township of Union attached) was held in 1836. The records for the first years have not been preserved, and no deductions can be drawn from the first civil proceedings. The second, and perhaps the first, supervisor of the township was the late Hiram Doubleday, conspicuously successful for many years in Sherwood and Union as farmer, business man and public-spirited citizen. He had come to Calhoun county in 1832, and moved into Sherwood four or five years later, purchasing land in sections 2 and 4.

The history of the village of Sherwood, which belongs to a later period, is given in another part of this volume.

Matteson Township.

In common with the other townships of the county, Matteson has been "settled" for many years. Only its oldest residents can remember the time when the land was not all taken up and farm houses and tilled fields were not to be seen in every direction. With a knowledge of present conditions only, the casual observer would with difficulty select any portion of the township that is historically older than the rest; for the superficial aspects, the evidences of material development, are generally the same throughout the town. The settlement of a country has often been compared to an overflood of water. Like all similes, this cannot be applied too exactly. Settlement does not proceed like a tide, covering all points in its course and in regular order from the source. It is rather a selective process, much as a winged seed is carried in the air miles from its parent stalk, finally lodges and germinates and becomes a new source of plant life and its distribution. The pioneers did not, on finding one section filled up, always pass to the next contiguous one and thus always keep in close touch with the main nucleus. But rather, as has been repeatedly illustrated in this history, considerations of soil, topography, communication and other grounds would induce one or more home-seekers to press on beyond a community that had already been established and break out a place of habitation in some new locality, perhaps miles away from other settlements. Such was true of Matteson township, and the history of its early settlement has some individual features that are interesting and instructive.

Entering the western side of the township in section 18 was, at the time the first white men knew this country, an Indian trail, often called the "Kalamazoo" trail. The course of this trail southeastwardly through Bronson township and thence to the state line has elsewhere been alluded to, also its prominence in connection with the settlement. This trail has been partly preserved and adapted to modern conditions, for the angling road that passes out of the township in section 18, toward Colon in St. Joseph county, follows approximately this Indian trail, which originally continued its course south of Matteson lake. About 1837 a state road was laid out over part of this

trail, this being the well traveled highway leading west from Coldwater through Matteson postoffice and out of the township and county by the angling road just mentioned. Not only this state road but the Indian trail played a large part in the early settlement of Matteson, and because of their significance this brief description is an apposite preface to the pioneer settlement.

Along the Indian trail, in section 18 and adjoining portions of the township, lay a large area of oak openings, always attractive to the pioneers as places of settlement. In the fall of 1834 Robert Watson, from western Pennsylvania, was seeking a home in Michigan and, passing through this region, chose to make his land entry on section 18 in the southwest quarter. In September, 1835, he brought his family from Pennsylvania to Detroit and thence followed the Chicago road until he could branch off on the trail which led him to his new location. He built a story-and-a-half log house near the trail, along which during the first years of his residence it was a common sight to see large bands of Indians passing from one camp ground to another.

By the time Mr. Watson (who continued a resident of this township until his death in the eighties) had arrived to begin actual residence, two other settlers and families had come and taken up land on the same section. These were Nathaniel Turner and Abiathar Culver, both of whom were identified closely with the upbuilding of the town and left descendants who are well known in the county. They were from Ontario county, New York, and the date of their settlement in Matteson was in the fall of 1835, shortly before the return of Mr. Watson. The three of them assisted each other in establishing themselves according to pioneer fashion and in erecting their first houses. Mr. Watson rendered especially valuable assistance, being trained to the trades of millwright, cabinet-making and carpentering.

That was the beginning of settlement in the west part of the township. In the spring of 1836 Amos Matteson, a native of Rhode Island but directly from Otsego county, New York, came to Branch county and settled on the west shore of the lake which now bears his name. A man of mature years and with the natural worth and experience which made him influential among his fellow citizens, it came about that when a name was sought for the newly organized township his friends honored him by transferring the name of its leading citizen to the town.

In the fall of 1836 Mr. Matteson obtained a neighbor in the person of Hiram Gardner, who settled about a mile north on section 11. Mrs. Gardner was a daughter of Amos Matteson. The Gardner family has also been prominent in the township from pioneer times to the present, both Hiram and his son Amos having served as supervisor at different times.

On the east side of Matteson lake at this time there was another settler, John Corson, whose family was long well known in that vicinity. In the same neighborhood, but in section 13, James K. Bennett, of Ontario county, New York, located in 1838. His log house about a quarter of a mile east of the "corners" was doubtless the first structure in the settlement that has since become dignified with the name of Matteson postoffice. His son, C. C.

Bennett was the second postmaster at the "corners," the office having been established at that point about 1855. A saw mill, a store, blacksmith shop, etc., have at various times given a business aspect to this spot, but it never attained the dignity of a village and a few years ago, when rural free delivery was extended over the county, even the postoffice was discontinued.

It will be noticed that the early settlers were mostly located along the State road through the central part of the township, and until the inflow of settlers became so great that little distinction as to location could be made the population of the township was very noticeably concentrated along this road. No statement as to the number of inhabitants in Matteson in 1837 can be made, for at that time the township was a part of Bronson, which then had 635 population. Just what share of this number lived in Matteson cannot be determined, but it was small, for when the town of Matteson was formally organized in the spring of 1838 there were hardly enough active citizens to fill the official positions.

The first township meeting was held in April, 1838, at the house of Abiathar Culver, located, as we know, at the western side of the township. Nearly all those who took part are familiar to the reader from the preceding narrative. Amos Matteson was moderator of the meeting, with Robert Watson as clerk; John Corson, James Gillis and Hiram Gardner were inspectors of election. Those elected, besides the ones just named, to fill the various offices were, Joseph Rudd, Ephraim Cline, John Vaughan, Lazarus Everhart, John Stailey, Charles F. Jackson, Ashley Turner (son of Nathaniel), Thomas B. Watson, James L. Gillis, Abiathar Culver, Nelson Washburn.

Kinderhook Township.

With reference to the early history of Kinderhook township the following extract from a letter written by Mrs. Chase to Bishop Chase on October 21, 1835, furnishes some interesting though not necessarily literally accurate information: "How many thousands," she exclaims, "are flocking to this land of promise, without a shelter or any provision for the coming season! The Indian village Episcopiscon, six miles east, had not a white inhabitant when you left this May; there are now more than forty families. And I hear from Coldwater that sixty families often pass through in a single day bound west."

Many continued along the Indian trail that led Bishop Chase into Gilead, and found advantageous sites for settlement in the region that later became Kinderhook township. As Mrs. Chase said, settlement did not begin there until 1835, but in that and the following year it is probable that more than half the land of the township was taken up. The presence of the Indians in the vicinity of the present Kinderhook postoffice, as also the large amount of water and marshy surface which was a more marked feature of the town in the early days than now, may have combined to retard settlement.

Some of those who entered land in this township in 1835 were George Tripp, Boaz Lampson, David Tift, Hiram Canwright, George Matthews, Joshua Baker, Sherldon Williams, Joseph Hawks, Oliver Johnson, Jacob Hall,

Hiram Baker. The sections adjacent to the old Indian village were most favored by the pioneers. When George Tripp, whose name is one of the most familiar among those of Kinderhook pioneers, arrived in 1835 he found only three settlers who had preceded him, namely, Joshua Baker, Sheldon Williams and Boaz Lampson. Others came during that year, although it is hardly possible that there were forty families here at the time Mrs. Chase wrote.

Of those who came the first year George Tripp became very prominent in township affiairs and successful in private business. His brother David came to the township in 1836. In the same year came John Waterhouse, from Oswego county, New York, and purchased the land where in time the hamlet of Waterhouse Corners grew up, this afterward being changed to Kinderhook Postoffice.

Joseph S. Hawks, who was a native of Otsego county, New York, located his land on the banks of Silver lake, in sections 10 and 15. Almeron W. Case, of Livingston county, New York, came in 1837, locating in section 3, half a mile from the Corners. Others who belong among the prominent pioneers, either assisting in the organization of the township or being identified with its life through a long period, were William Chase, who came to the township in 1841; O. B. Clark, who was an early settler but whose career was mainly identified with the city of Coldwater; Oliver D. Colvin, and others.

As elsewhere stated, Kinderhook was one of the last townships to be organized, the legislative act for that purpose being dated in February, 1842. The township received its name from the birthplace of Martin Van Buren, then presidential candidate, and not because any considerable proportion of the settlers were of Holland extraction or were from Kinderhook, New York, or vicinity.

The first town meeting was held in April, 1842, and the official list comprises in the main those who were foremost in the affairs of the township at the time. Oliver D. Colvin was the first supervisor, and the other offices were filled by George Tripp, Almeron W. Case, William Chase, Ira Bonner, David Tripp, Ellery Patterson (who entered land in 1841), Isaac Eslow, John D. Depue (a settler of 1836), Arba L. Lampson, Bentley Reynolds, Lathrop G. Fish, Hiram Canwright, John Waterhouse, Jr., John Bradley.

Kinderhook has always been an agricultural community. Aside from the settlement at Kinderhook postoffice, which has experienced the usual business activity and general importance of a rural center, and leaving out of consideration the several mills for the manufacture of lumber or flour which at various times and in different locations have existed in the township, the occupations of the people of Kinderhook have been essentially agricultural, and the progressive men and the leading citizens have with few exceptions been farmers.

Ovid Township.

It is a remarkable fact, therefore one permitting repetition, that certain townships of Branch county were settled within a year or so after the first

land entry was made; by a "settled" condition would be meant that on nearly every section in the town would be found one or more families, and that the time of blazing pathways through the wilderness and groping about in uncertainty for homes was past.

This was true of Ovid township. Coldwater village was an ambitious village, with an energetic though small population, and with several business enterprises, before the first permanent settlers had located in the wilderness to the south and become pioneers in what was organized by the legislature in March, 1837, as Ovid township. But in 1835, 1836 and 1837 such a number of immigrants came in that when the census of October, 1837, was taken Ovid township (which then included the as yet unorganized town of Kinderhook) contained 209 inhabitants.

The proximity of the villages of Coldwater and Branch no doubt had some influence in directing this settlement, the more so from the fact that the early settlements of Ovid were grouped in the northwestern corner of the township, largly in the sections traversed by the Coldwater river. In this part of the town Howard Bradley and Richard and Nelson Salsberry settled about 1834, being the first settlers, and their land being located in sections 6 and 7. In 1835 several prominent men located in that vicinity, among the best known being Uriah Lockwood and his son Henry, whose large landed possessions were also in sections 6 and 7.

The others who entered land in 1835 were William T. Green, Horatio J. Olcott, Silas Hutchinson, Elisha Spencer, Alexander Marshall, Charles M. Marshall, Isaac T. Dudley, Oliver Johnson, Moses Hawks, Charles Fox, Joel L. Putnam, Reuben Wilson, William Bockes, John Wilson, Don A. Dewey and Amos Hough.

The northwest corner of the township continued to receive the large share of the immigrants. In 1836 Samuel M. Treat, a native of Oneida county, New York, located in section 8 and with eighty acres of land as a nucleus began a successful career which in time made him one of the large land owners of Ovid. Henry Treat also located in this vicinity, as also Jared G. Brooks and Stuart Davis. The south side of section 8 was the site of a sawmill, built by Gardner Scofield during the early forties. Stephen Bates was another early settler in this vicinity.

A little further east, sections 3, 4 and 10 furnished homes to the well known families of Baldridge, Smith and Willets. That the bulk of the first settlers were in the northwest corner of the township is further indicated by the fact that the first school of the town was established in section 6.

One of the best known later settlers was Dr. Daniel Wilson, whose home for many years was in section 28. His father, Reuben Wilson, was one of the earliest settlers in this portion of the township, much of his land being in section 21. Dr. Wilson located permanently in this township in 1839, and became noted as a physician, farmer, sheriff of the county and in many ways identified with public interests.

The part of the township lying east of Coldwater lake was also early settled, the Quimby family being perhaps the best known.

One other locality should be mentioned—Parley's Corners, which at one time had business activities almost sufficient to dignify it with the name of village. Parley Stockwell, mentioned in the history of Coldwater township, settled in the northeast corner of section 16 about 1842, and established an ashery for the manufacture of potash. A little later a postoffice was established there, with Mr. Stockwell as postmaster. He usually kept the mail for the community in one of his pockets. A schoolhouse was also built at this point, a blacksmith shop and tavern opened. But little growth toward village proportions was made, and Ovid has always continued an agricultural community. In recent years the attractions of Coldwater lake as a summer resort and the building of numerous cottages around its shore have made it a center for social life, but the business center for the people of the township is at Coldwater.

Algansee Township.

From the history of early settlement in Branch county certain conclusions might be deduced that would obtain almost with the force of laws. One is that those portions of the county which bore the topographical definition of "oak openings" were almost invariably the first spots to be taken in settlement. It would also seem true that where water power has been advantageously situated it has been made the object of enterprise on the part of one or more of the earliest settlers. In the case of Algansee township we find very pertinent illustration of these historical observations.

Algansee was one of the later townships. No settlements were made until after 1835. The census of 1837 did not name it, and the inhabitants then residing within its present boundaries were included with those of Quincy township. Algansee was set off from Quincy in April, 1838, as already explained, but even then included, until March, 1846, what is now California.

When the first settlers came to this township they found its southwest corner the only considerable area that was not densely timbered. It is not surprising to find, therefore, that the resident landowners in the township in 1837 were mostly grouped on sections 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33. In the very corner of the town, with his residence on the State road through section 31, we find in that year the pioneer and prominent citizen, Asahel Brown, who had entered and purchased land here in 1836 and lived here in active usefulness until his death in 1874. He was town supervisor twenty-one years, a member of the state constitutional convention of 1850 and later of the state senate, and easily the foremost citizen of his part of the county.

Near him, on section 33, lived E. S. E. Brainard, another pioneer name that evokes many personal associations in that part of the county. He had also come to the town in 1836, making the journey overland from Detroit with ox team. He was prominent in the organization of the township, and his name will frequently be found in the list of township officers.

Owning land in sections 28 and 29 was Horace Purdy, at whose house was held the first township meeting in 1838, in accordance with the act of legislature. Section 29 was also the home of David Tift, who on coming

to Branch county in 1836 had first settled in Kinderhook but in the same year located in Algansee, where he lived until his death in 1859. His two sons Roswald and Jerome B. were long residents of this part of the township.

Other settlers in the southwest corner of the township, according to the census of 1837, were Jesse Craft and James Nichols, on section 29; Isaac George, whose land was in sections 19, 28 and 29; Thomas Pratt, who had located on section 33 only a few weeks after his brother-in-law S. E. Brainard; and Nathan Austin, on section 32.

The only other settlers in the township in 1837, so far as the records show, were Leonard Nelson and Almon Nichols, on section 25; Ludovico Robbins, who owned a large tract of land in sections 15 and 22; and Morris Crater and Luther Stiles.

The last two settlers deserve some special mention. Luther Stiles shares with Ludovico Robbins the honor of being the first permanent settler of Algansee, both arriving, though not as companions, on the same day. Morris Crater came from Livingston county, New York, to this township in July, 1836, his land entry being on section 13, while that of Stiles was in section 9, bordering on Hanchett creek. In the fall of 1836 Crater and Stiles began the construction of the first sawmill in the township and completed it for operation in the following February. This mill was located on the creek in the east half of section 9, at the site so long utilized for mill purposes. Mr. Stiles left the township in 1837 and Mr. Crater moved to Quincy a few years later, but in establishing this mill they did an important pioneer work.

This was the status of settlement in Algansee in 1837. From that time on population increased steadily and in time even the heavily timbered portions were cleared and occupied and beginnings were made in the work of drainage which, as explained elsewhere, was of first importance to the proper agricultural development of this township. Two of the prominent settlers of 1838 were Seth E. and Samuel B. Hanchett, both locating on section 9. Andrew Crater located on section 15, and the settlement in the southwest corner was increased by Daniel Bickford, whose land was in section 29. In this locality and in 1838 was taught the first school, a summer term by Miss Jane Woodard. Jasper Underhill, the first town clerk, settled in section 31 about this time.

Others who may have taken part in the first town meeting at the house of Horace Purdy, in May, 1838, were John Vanderhoof and Eli Gray, from section 6; Barney Smith, on section 13; Abram Ackerson, on section 20; H. Hildreth, section 25; Thomas Goodman, section 22; and Jesse Doyle, section 35.

In the vicinity of the Stiles-Crater original mill there in time grew up a little center, consisting of the postoffice, school, several churches. It was the home of the well remembered physician and public official, Dr. James A. Williams, who located there in 1854.

In the southern part of the township, in section 27, a steam sawmill was built by the Wakemans in 1854, and in 1878 a large grist mill was erected at the same place by Eli and Mortimer B. Wakeman.

Noble Township.

The fractional township of Noble was not set off from Bronson until the legislative act of March, 1845, over nine years after the first settler had located within its borders. At the first township meeting, which was held at the house of John Grove in section 9, in April, 1845, the following settlers took official part: Ambrose Hale (two of the same name), E. W. Craig, William Butts, William Rippey, Sidney Marble, I. Driggs, Thomas Shane, Cyrus Beardsley, Jared Fuller, Samuel S. Bushnell, William Shane, I. H. Foust, J. H. Smith, William Milliman, Sidney S. Matthews, John Curtis, James Anderson, David Foster, Levi M. Curtis, Andrews Watling, Walter W. Smith, Moses Strong, I. D. Hart.

In this list of active citizens can undoubtedly be found the majority of the first settlers and those most prominent in the time of beginnings for Noble township. The group of first settlers, who came in 1836, would comprise the names of Walter W. Smith, on the northwest quarter of section 10; William Rippey, William Butts (who was a blacksmith), and John Grove. In the same year what has always been known as the "Dutch settlement" was started in the northwest corner of the township by the settlement in section 6 of Daniel Himebaugh, a family name that has been conspicuous in southwest Branch county from pioneer days to the present. Others of the Pennsylvania Dutch stock followed, bringing with them their habits of simplicity and thriftiness and their Mennonite religion. The Mennonite church on section 2 is the visible evidence of the faith which has bound this community together in Noble township for many years.

David Foster was one of the settlers of 1837, locating half a mile east of Hickory Corners. Hickory Corners, while a well known landmark in Noble township and with historical associations running back seventy years, has never been a business center further than having been the location of the postmaster's home at one time and of the schoolhouse. The name was given and clung to this crossroads because at one time a group of hickory trees stood there. Thomas Henderson was a settler there in 1836; also Ambrose Hale, the first supervisor of the township. Joseph Smith and his son C. R. Smith were early settlers in the same locality, their land being in section 2. William Robinson settled on the same section in 1836. A settler of 1841 in the oak openings east of the Corners was John H. Lane. John Curtis, also mentioned as taking part in the first town meeting, had located in the year preceding the meeting on section 2.

James Anderson, a native of Scotland, who settled in the southeast corner of Noble in 1842, where the little lake still bears his name, was responsible for the name that was given to the township. He was an active citizen of Noble for about six years, and then moved to Coldwater and went into business.

Samuel S. Bushnell located on section 11 in 1838 and lived there until his death in 1872. He and his son Ephraim B. were both active in township affairs. Section 5 was the pioneer home of Peter Mallow, one of the best known of Noble's early settlers, who located there in 1840 and spent his life

in developing a home from the wilderness which he found. His sons William and George W. are still living in Noble and active in business and citizenship.

Until rural free delivery brought postal facilities to every home, Noble township had a postoffice, located at different times with different residents in the eastern part of the town. Further than this, there has been nothing in the way of a center in the township, which from the first has been chiefly noted for its agricultural possibilities and its thrifty farming class.

California Township.

California township, which was not separately organized until March, 1846, began to be settled, nevertheless, about the same time as Algansee, Ovid and Kinderhook, the adjoining towns. Although there is little distinctive in the history of this town's settlement, some very interesting personalities and worthy characters are found among the pioneers.

The late James H. Lawrence, whose death occurred in 1897, wrote and published a number of reminiscences concerning his first experiences in California township, where he was one of the first settlers. In the latter part of 1835, in company with Samuel Beach and son William Beach, he traveled the Chicago road as far as Coldwater, and from there came by trail as best they could as far as Waterhouse Corners in Kinderhook township, where they met the Kinderhook pioneers already known to the reader—Tripp, Waterhouse and Lampson.

Evidently the Beach-Lawrence party had determined beforehand on a location in the fractional township that later became California, for they continued on to their "destination," on section 4, where they commenced to build a house "by felling the first tree cut by a white man in California township." While engaged in this labor two other homeseekers already known to us, Asahel Brown and Nathan Austin, paid them a brief visit, but did not remain in California, locating instead in the southwest corner of Algansee as told on a former page. The log house was soon constructed and properly chinked with mud and roofed over, and then, early in 1836, Mr. Beach came with his family and made his settlement permanent.

According to the description given by Mr. Lawrence, the isolation of this family for a time was almost complete, and of course the same was true of many other pioneer households in Branch county. Only rough and devious Indian trails led from one part of the country to another, and not even these could be relied upon since the white settlements were often situated without regard to these primitive avenues of communication.

To quote a paragraph from Mr. Lawrence's narrative: "Ira Purdy was the next settler, and the first one to build after us. He came early in the spring of 1836, and built a small log house on section 3. He too had to go into the hotel business, and declares that some nights he kept as many as forty people. The same spring we went to Quincy, ten miles north of us, to attend town meeting, when Mr. Beach was elected a justice of the peace. Our route

lay through an unbroken wilderness, and our only guide was section lines, which were followed through swamps and marsh, brush and brakes."

Many settlers came during 1836, and it is noteworthy that most of them settled in the northern part of the township and about the site of the present California village. Ira Cass, George Monlux and Alexander Odren, arrivals of that year, were founders of families that have been well and favorably known since. Alexander Odren, who died in this township in 1888, aged ninety-seven years, perhaps the oldest native of Michigan at the time, located on section 1 and spent over fifty years there. Ira Cass was a well known pioneer character, about whom many anecdotes were told, and he had a large family of four sons and six daughters. Israel R. Hall was another settler of this year.

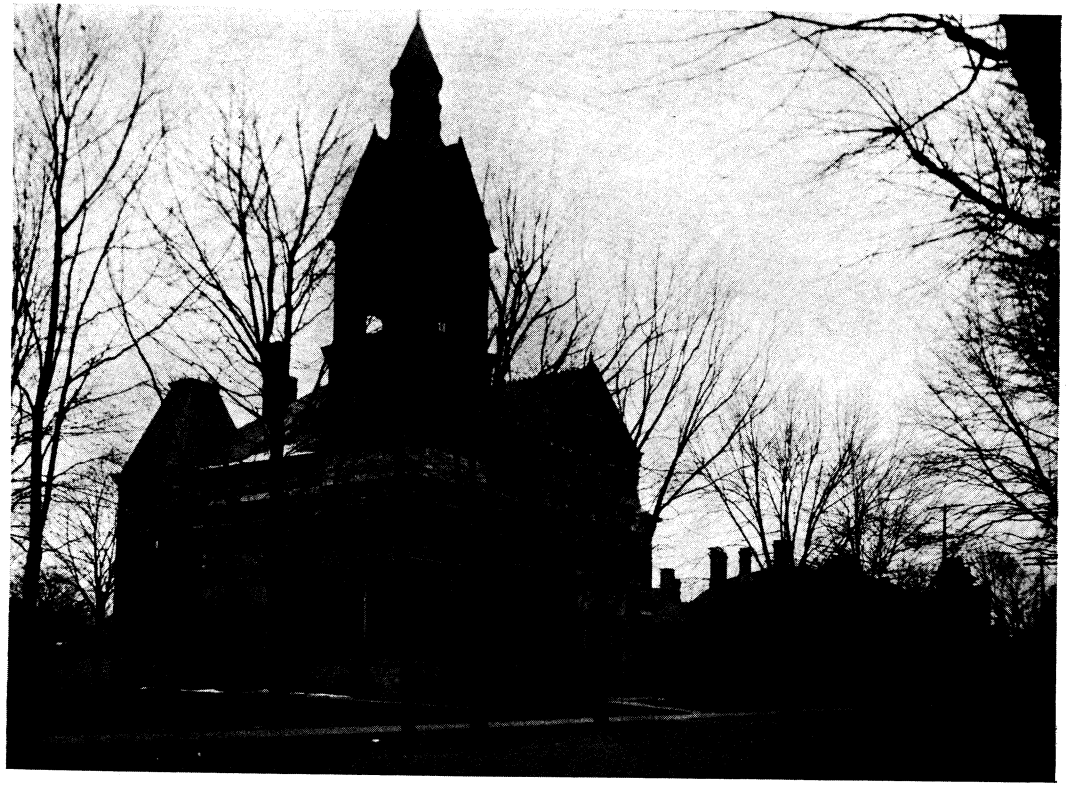
According to the census returns of 1837 the resident land owners in California were located as follows: Samuel Beach lived on section 4. Israel R. Hall had land in the same section and also in sections 3 and 9. Another neighbor was Ira Purdy, in section 3. The Lawrences, comprising J. W., J. W., Jr., and James H., lived on section 5, but James H. soon became a resident on section 10. George Monlux was on section 4, Ira Cass had his land in sections 2 and 3, while in the northeast corner of the town were Alexander Odren, on section 1, John W. Harris, section 1, and Theodore G. Holden, whose extensive landed possessions were on sections 1, 2 and 12. The other settlers were Azam Purdy, a brother of Ira, on section 23; William Thompson, section 12; Stillman Elwell, section 10; and Jacob B. Brown and Jonathan Hall, on section 6.

The two north tiers of sections also received most of the settlers of 1838. Some of the settlers of that year were: On section 1, Fowler Quimby and Ridgeway Craft; section 12, Justus Leuse; section 11, Joseph F. Reynolds and John Vincent; section 8, Gilbert Gordinier; section 6, Asel Whitney and Isaac Withey; on sections 15 and 21, James Craig; section 16, Rev. George Bryant.

These were the pioneers. By the time California township was organized the process of settlement was fairly complete, for not a section was without at least one landowner, and at the first town meeting sixty male voters took part in the proceedings. Some of the pioneers above mentioned were chosen to office, as will be seen in the list from supervisor down—George Monlux, William Beach, Ira Purdy, Samuel Beach, George D. Avery, James M. Hall, Robert Merrill, James Craig, Talcott Merwin, Isaac N. Miner, Thomas H. Reynolds, Chauncey Miles, Cephas B. Dresser, Alexander Odren, Jr., Andrew J. Critchfield, John C. Reynolds, Isaac Purdy, Hart Hazen, Sereno Gillett, Ebenezer Adams, James Hall.

We have noticed that the first settlers formed a group on sections 3, 4, 9 and 10. At the crossroads corners of these sections, about 1846, Joseph Hall opened a stock of goods and became the first merchant. From this circumstance this locality was long known by the name of "Hall's Corners," but the present generation has been more familiar with the designation of "California" village or postoffice. This place has gone through the usual stages of growth.

A blacksmith shop was built near the store, J. W. Lawrence of pioneer fame being the blacksmith, a carpenter furnished another kind of mechanical skill. The first schoolhouse in the town had been located, about 1838, on Ira Purdy's farm, not far from the Corners, and in time it was moved to the northeast corner of section 9, making another institution that promotes community life. A postoffice was established there, the Presbyterian church had been located there since 1840. Edward and Thomas Morrow erected a steam sawmill in 1867. With these institutions and industries California has long maintained its quiet position as an inland village, having a population of 162 at the last census. Cephas B. Dresser was the first lawyer with a home at that point, and since then several professional men have been located there. Unfortunately, when the Fort Wayne and Jackson branch railroad was constructed about 1870 California was left to one side, and the hamlet is three miles from the State Line station. With a railroad California would doubtless have experienced similar growth to that of Sherwood in the opposite corner of the county.



County Court House and Jail, 1905

CHAPTER XIII.

THE CITY OF COLDWATER.

The origin of Coldwater has been sketched on other pages; as the official center of the county and the principal business place and the only city, it has necessarily occupied a large share of attention in the narrative. It seems fitting, however, in the following paragraphs to set down in consecutive order such facts as will show the progress of the city from the village state to the prosperous city which with proper pride can celebrate its existence of three quarters of a century.

From the incorporation of Coldwater village in 1837 to the incorporation of Coldwater city in 1861, there are few matters to chronicle more than the steady growth which made a city government appropriate and necessary. As elsewhere mentioned, the transfer of the county seat from Branch to the public square where it is now located was the event of pregnant importance for the early development of Coldwater. The building of the mills along Coldwater river inaugurated the manufacturing which in 1905 was represented by 34 firms.

In speaking of the growth of Coldwater one fact deserves prominence. The city has maintained an even balance, a fair proportion between the various institutions, industries and professional and commercial activities. Coldwater is not a "factory town," and yet its annual aggregate of manufactured products is large. It is not pre-eminently a trade center, in the sense that the daily retail transactions on Chicago street are the index of the city's prosperity. Nor is it the home of retired wealth and latent capital, notwithstanding a million dollars of surplus and deposits in its three banks. Coldwater could not be called a "county seat town," meaning that the court house was the hub of its enterprise. In fact, Coldwater is all of these things, and yet in such proportion that its welfare does not depend on any one class of enterprise. Coldwater has never been "boomed," but has grown steadily and conservatively since Allen Tibbits and Joseph Hanchett platted the first site seventy-five years ago. Very few towns survive a genuine "boom," just as very few speculators ever leave the stock market with a fortune—and for the same reason. The business men of Coldwater would not welcome a flush of enterprise whose after effects might prove disastrous to the stability of the city. For fifteen years Coldwater and Branch county have been doing business on the credit side of the ledger, have ceased to be borrowers and become lenders, and this is the kind of prosperity that is worth maintaining.

The courthouse was built in Coldwater in 1848. About the same time came the telegraph, and in 1850 the Lake Shore Railroad. These were the

events of most importance during the history of the village. The stage coach ceased as an institution, and the expectant postmaster ceased to listen for the blast which announced the coming of the mail coach, and instead listened for the whistle of the locomotive on the south side of the village. Another evidence of growth was the organization of the first regular fire protection service, in August, 1856, when Excelsior Company No. 1 came into existence with its manual engine and hose cart.

These improvements led the way for the formation of a city government in 1861, by special charter from the legislature. The first mayor was the late Albert Chandler, and his fellow officials comprised such well known names as Robert F. Mockridge, John S. Youngs, Franklin D. Marsh, F. V. Smith, J. S. Barber, Isaac P. Alger, E. W. Bovee, L. D. Crippen, David N. Green, E. A. Knowlton. The principal city and village officers from 1837 to the present will be found in the official lists.

The municipal improvements and institutions of Coldwater have come into existence in keeping with its material wealth and the general spirit of progress. By looking back it is possible to date the beginning of many improvements that now seem to be the very basis of comfort and security. We recall the frequent admonitions of the editor of the Sentinel during the forties that the citizens should give attention to the streets and sidewalks, which were in an execrable condition, calling particular attention to the many mud holes and lack of sidewalks on the business section of Chicago street. It is the faculty and privilege of "practical optimism" while realizing the much that remains to be accomplished that it yet delights in the present conditions which form so happy a contrast with the past. Since the decade of the forties, and in every subsequent decade, a constant change for the better has been going on to affect the beauty and convenience of Coldwater's thoroughfares. Some day the grateful citizens may erect a monument in honor of those whose foresight and care provided for the planting of the thousands of shade trees along the principal streets. The usefulness of the cement which is now manufactured in such large quantities in the county finds no better evidence than in the miles of sidewalk which have taken the place of the old-time board or gravel walk and to a large extent the brick walks.

The business section, which was the special object of attack on the part of the *Sentinel* editor, now would certainly satisfy his ideals. About 1900 Chicago street from the public square to Jackson street was substantially paved with brick, and one or two of the intersecting streets, notably Monroe, were paved for a short distance on either side. This paving has done as much as anything else toward rendering the business section cleanly, convenient and giving it a metropolitan appearance.

This anticipates the consecutive order of municipal progress. The most valuable of all municipal works is water works. The proposition to build a system of water works in Coldwater was submitted to the citizens on April 8, 1890, and carried by a majority of 345 out of 1,199 votes cast. The first cost of the plant was seventy thousand dollars, but improvements and extensions since that date have cost half as much more. Municipal ownership of

these and similar public utilities is fixed by principle and long custom in Coldwater, and so we find the water works and the electric lighting plant run in conjunction. The city electric lighting plant was installed in 1891.

From the time of their establishment until 1903 these plants were under the control of an electric light and water works committee, but in the latter year the legislature created a board of public works with supervision and control over these utilities. The members of this board are appointed by the mayor with the consent of the council, and are chosen outside of the council, and after the first year one new member has been chosen each year for a term of five years. The first board of public works, with varying lengths of term, were A. A. Dorrance, J. M. Crocker, E. D. Luedders, A. A. Sherman, B. H. Calkins.

Water works is a very essential factor in fire protection, but as already stated, Coldwater had provisions in this line years before the water works were established. In 1866 the different companies were organized as "The Fire Association of Coldwater," and in 1872 this department of public service became "The City of Coldwater Steam Fire Engine Company," that being the date of the purchase of the first steam fire engine. The department was organized on its present basis in the nineties, consisting of a chief and a number of firemen, all of whom are paid a salary, but only two are constantly on duty at the fire station. James B. Smullen is at present chief of the department. The apparatus, consisting chiefly of engine, hose cart and hook and ladder truck, is housed in the lower story of the city hall, on South Monroe street, the second story of this building being used as council chamber and offices for the city officials.

Churches and schools are described on other pages, also the public library, which was instituted in 1880, and the E. R. Clarke Library building, erected in 1886. A building, which, though built by private enterprise, is in every sense a public institution, is the Tibbets Opera House. It was erected by B. S. Tibbits, and was opened for the first performance on September 21, 1882, the "Maid of Arran" being given on that night. This beautiful little playhouse on South Hanchett street has been a familiar center for meetings and entertainments of many kinds through nearly a generation.

It remains to record briefly some of the more important and long established business concerns of Coldwater. The professions and the manufacturing interests are elsewhere described. No doubt the oldest mercantile concern of Coldwater is E. R. Clarke & Co., which was established in 1850 by the late Edwin R. Clarke as a drug store. The store has always been conducted by the Clarke family, and has grown to be one of the best known establishments in Branch county, its location always having been on the northeast corner of Monroe and Chicago streets.

One who was familiar with the mercantile section of Coldwater thirty years ago but who had in the meantime been away, would find on returning at this time several of the familiar merchants and stores that he had once known. Among these would be the Sloman clothing house. The drug house

formerly conducted by A. A. Dorrance would now be found in the hands of his son, A. J. Dorrance. The Flandermeyer boot and shoe house was in business thirty-five years ago as well as to-day. The Woodward, Barber & Co. of that time, general dealers, has since become the Woodward & Son dry goods and furnishing store. Another outgrowth of this old firm is the present department store of J. B. Branch & Company, which was organized in 1877. In 1877 also was established the Conover Engraving and Printing Company, by the late J. S. Conover. Charles A. Conover now conducts the business, which covers an individual field in Coldwater and is one of the largest concerns of its kind in Southern Michigan.

T. A. Hilton, the clothier, is another business man who has been successfully engaged in merchandising on Chicago street for thirty years or more. Mr. A. B. Walker, proprietor of the Coldwater steam laundry, has been in that line of business since 1888. The real estate firm of R. C. Sawdey & Son, which was founded by the late R. C. Sawdey over thirty-five years ago and is now conducted by W. S. Sawdey, has a long and enviable record in its line of business.

L. M. Bassett & Son are jewelers at 48 West Chicago St. in the same building in which Mr. Bassett, the father, began business in 1851.

The business of the Milnes Supply Company, 54-56 W. Chicago St., was begun by Mr. Henry Milnes, the grandfather of Mr. Harry L. Milnes of the present firm, in 1863.

The hardware business of the Chandler family dates back to 1841, when Hon. Albert Chandler began his long and active life as a resident of Coldwater. The family has been represented in this business ever since, the name being continued now in the firm of Chandler & Lee, 38 W. Chicago St. V. L. Nettleton & Co., at 49 W. Chicago St., continue the hardware business begun by the father of Mr. Vernon L. in 1866. Previous to 1889 there had been only three hardware stores in Coldwater. In that year Kerr Bros. opened the fourth in the city's history, going into the fine building which they erected and now occupy in 1891. On Dec. 30, 1889, David C. Allen began to carry on the hardware business which had been previously owned by John T. Starr. He continues the business at 9 W. Chicago St., under the firm name of D. C. Allen & Co.

The planing mill of Ball Bros. has for years shaped the lumber for the woodwork of many a building in the county. Their business was begun in 1866 with the firm of Ball & Mauger. Lewis Hedgerton has a record of thirty-four years' continuous work in the city as blacksmith and horseshoer. He began in the stone shop on W. Chicago St. in 1872, but soon came to Hanchett St., where he now is with Mr. John M. Chadsey as his partner. Plumbing is no unimportant item in the life of a modern civilized community. The firm of Mansell & Kappler, plumbers, continue at 23 South Monroe St. the business begun by Mr. George Mansell in 1865, when he bought out the business of Mr. Wilder. Mr. Mansell has been continuously in the plumbing business in Coldwater for over

forty years. The first real modern plumbing in any house in the county was that in the residence of Mr. Henry C. Lewis on E. Chicago St., which was put in by Mr. Mansell in 1864. The son, Mr. Edwin Mansell, now has his father's place in the firm.

CHAPTER XIV.

BRANCH COUNTY'S VILLAGES.

UNION CITY.

A brief summary of the conspicuous features of Union City's history from the time of settlement, which has already been sketched, will be given in this chapter, as also similar sketches of the other villages of the county. Union City had splendid natural advantages, especially in the way of water power for manufacturing purposes, and we already know that the site was selected for this reason. That these resources were not developed and that Union City did not become a place of first importance was due evidently to the fact that during the greater part of the last century the village had no transportation facilities. It was the building of the Air Line Railroad in 1870 that gave the village its greatest impulse, and since then it has in large measure overcome the handicap which its sister villages of Quincy and Bronson did not have.

During the thirties and forties the people of the middle west were about equally agitated and divided in opinion as to advisability between ship canals and railroads. Union City declared in favor of canals. That was not unnatural, because in the St. Joseph river the citizens thought they had a natural water way that needed only a little dredging and straightening to become navigable from Lake Michigan to Union City, whence an overland canal would connect with the Lake Erie watershed. Both the Michigan Central and Michigan Southern railroads were in process of construction at this time, but, absorbed in the canal project, Union City let both pass her to the side. The hopes of a canal soon after died and the disappointed villagers had to wait twenty years before opportunity again appeared. This time it was the railroad, the short line that was being constructed largely by private enterprise and popular subscription from Jackson to Niles. Union City became a station on this road, and when trains began running over the line in 1870 the problem of transportation was solved and the industrial and business development so long delayed could now proceed without interruption.

Union City during her early days made no mean efforts to become a manufacturing center. The "Union City Iron Company," which was incorporated in March, 1847, was the most pretentious of these pioneer enterprises. Bog iron ore exists in many places in southern Michigan, Butler and Union townships having large deposits in their lake beds, and the company was formed to manufacture this ore into pig-iron. A blast fur-

nace was built at Union City, and the smelting of the ore continued for some years. Finally the plant was converted into a foundry for the manufacture of plows and other iron work.

Before the coming of the railroad, Union City was incorporated as a village. The petition for incorporation was put before the board of supervisors in 1865, when there were 545 inhabitants within the area proposed to be incorporated. In response to the petition the board incorporated the "Village of Union City," and at the first election, held January 25, 1866, the following were the citizens chosen to direct village affairs: President, Isaac Jones; Trustees, H. F. Ewers, J. D. Hawthorn, J. W. Smith, Caleb Lincoln, Ansel Knowles, Richard Avery; Clerk, G. W. Buell; Treasurer, C. A. Seymour; Assessors, E. Barber, Hiram Crissy; Street Commissioners, C. E. Ewers, S. B. Simms, J. S. Rowell. Mr. Jones did not qualify and the vacancy was filled by the appointment of Dr. H. F. Ewers as president. At the regular election held March 6, 1866, the following officers were chosen for the ensuing year: President, S. H. Nye; Trustees, A. P. West, J. C. Leonard, H. F. Ewers, Solomon Parsons, A. B. Aiken, C. A. Whiting; Clerk, C. W. Saunders; Treasurer, J. T. Leonard; Marshal, M. Morrill; Assessors, Edwin Barber, Hiram Crissy; Street Commissioners, Sindal Morrill, Asa Hawley, J. S. Rowell. The village was granted a new charter by the state legislature March 23, 1869, under which affairs were conducted until the passage by the state legislature in 1895 of the blanket charter now governing all villages in the State of Michigan.

Union City was a station on the "underground railroad" in the years of anti-slavery agitation. The village was a hotbed of freedom. Many of the citizens had pronounced views on the vital questions then disturbing the country. But the foremost actor in the cause of anti-slavery when it came to practical helpfulness was the late John D. Zimmerman, blacksmith by trade, a pioneer settler of 1838, and one of the strongest and most picturesque figures in the early history of the village. He was the "station master" for the "slave railroad," and many a time he would get up from his bed at midnight to carry a slave to the next station at Marshall. He was a man of deep religious and moral convictions, and never once did he murmur at the hardships and actual dangers that this work put upon him.

In public improvements Union City is abreast of the times. Naturally, one of the first movements would be for efficient fire protection, which resulted in the fire department. The bucket brigade system was superseded when the village council voted an appropriation of fifteen hundred dollars to buy a hand engine and complementary equipment. This apparatus was installed in July, 1872, and on February 4, 1873, the fire company was organized, consisting of 43 members. A new fire company, of 33 members, was formed in January, 1875, and called the "St. Joseph Fire Company of Union City." In 1876 a lot was purchased on High street east of Broadway and the two-story brick engine house was built at a cost of $2,150. This building is still the fire department and municipal headquarters, the council rooms being located on the second floor. A steam fire engine was purchased

in 1886, but has been little used since the water works were built. The Union City Fire Department now has twelve volunteer members, of which the chief is W. H. Rowe, and their prompt and efficient service is all that is needed to supplement the excellent mechanical equipment.

In 1894 the citizens of Union City voted to build and operate a water works plant and also purchase the electric-light plant which had been theretofore operated as a private enterprise by Rheubottom and Bond. The proposition provided for the issue of $25,000 of municipal bonds, $20,000 to build the water works and $5,000 for the electric-light plant. In the spring of 1895 both plants were in operation by the city. The original cost of the water works was $21,450, and extensions have been made to new portions of the village at various times since then. The water supply is obtained from deep wells. The pumping station is in the same building with the electric power house, and the two plants are run in conjunction. The electric light plant was entirely remodeled in 1900, a new equipment of the best and latest electrical machinery being installed. For this improvement additional bonds to the amount of $8,000 were voted.

In describing Union City in 1903, Mr. T. F. Robinson of the Register-Weekly had this to say of some other features of the village, and the description is as true to-day as three years ago:

"The wide streets of the city are remarkably well looked after and there are miles of handsome and durable cement sidewalks and cross-walks. Two public parks are well cared for and they prove most convenient for public assemblages in the summer time. In Monument Park stands a fine soldiers' monument, flanked on either side by cannon which were contributed by the United States government. Thousands of beautiful shade trees line every residence street, and citizens generally take great pride in the appearance of their lawns and grounds. The Union City Opera House has been just recently remodeled by its new owner, Mr. N. E. Tower. The Union City postoffice now occupies a new brick block on Hammond street, and the interior was fitted up expressly for the purpose. The outfit is unexcelled in this section, and patrons feel correspondingly proud of it."

For a list of the important village officers, for a description of the schools, the manufacturing and banking interests, the churches and societies, the reader is referred to other chapters of this volume. This sketch of Union City may properly be concluded with brief notice of some of the men who have for a number of years been connected with the mercantile life of the village.

One of the first to be named would be F. C. Rheubottom, who entered upon his career as manufacturer and merchant at Union City in 1868. H. H. Chase, the jeweler, made the beginning of a large business in 1867 and his is one of the few names of the present that were listed in the old Branch County directory of 1870. One of the long-time merchants now deceased was Horace A. Corbin, who became the partner of Hiram Crissy in a general store as long ago as 1856, and was for about thirty years in business. He died in 1896. The associate of Mr. Corbin in the dry-goods

business during the later years was John B. Tucker, who died in 1895 after half a century of business activity in Union City.

In the death of George W. Buell in 1905 Union City lost a pioneer business man, who was in mercantile business here during the sixties and was a principal in the old Exchange Bank and in the organization of the Union City National Bank, and in many ways was identified with the interests of his village.

Other business men of Union City are Martin F. Buell, now retired, but for twenty-eight years, from January, 1871, station agent at this point. Mortimer Vosburgh has also been in various positions here since 1871. Fred C. Wilkins began the drug and book business here in 1878. James R. Corwin, who established a marble and granite business in 1881; Samuel Corbin, who began business as wool and grain buyer here before the completion of the railroad; Henry Seymour, who began the grocery business in 1877 and afterward became prominent in other lines as well as public official; M. P. Maxon, whose career as merchant began in 1880; Chauncey W. Saunders, now deceased, who began a retail shoe business in 1858 and who for years was influential in business and civil life, are names very closely associated with the business life of Union City.

Quincy.

In time the settlement at the central portion of Quincy township developed into a village. The stores and mechanical and professional activities, already described during the first years, did not stop at the stage which would make a country hamlet, as we have seen to be the case in more than one such nucleus of settlement. No doubt the great impulse to growth was given by the railroad, which was built through the site of Quincy in 1850. It is said that, had not the enterprise of several citizens intervened to prevent, Quincy would not have been made a station on the railroad, but the station would have been located several miles east on the county line. The location depended on the ability of Quincy to build a freight house, and it was owing to the energy and zeal of the late Lucas Joseph, whose career was so markedly identified at all times with the best interests of this village, that the building was erected.

In 1853 the old tavern on the site of the Quincy House, one or two stores, the postoffice, and some professional and mechanical interests were all that Quincy could claim in the direction of village growth. But in the following three or four years a number of business and dwelling houses were erected. In 1856 the village was platted, the plat being signed by the owners of the site, being the well known names of Enos G. Berry, Joseph Berry, John Broughton, William Cole, John Sebring, William Arnold, Cyrus Lusk, Christopher Conley, and Martin Hawley.

Two years later, when it is estimated there were four hundred people on the village plat, the village was incorporated by the county board of supervisors, on October 14, 1858. At the first village election, which was

held in the following November, the following men were chosen to conduct the affairs of the corporation: Ebenezer Mudge, President; Moses A. Hewett, Clerk; Cornelius Shear, Havens Wilbur, David C. Myers, John Sebring, William P. Arnold, Martin Hawley, Trustees; Alden Gregory, Treasurer; Harlow W. Williams and Julius I. Gregory, Assessors; Allen C. Culver, Marshal. The principal officers of the village for all the years will be found in the official lists.

By 1870 Quincy had become a village of nine hundred population. During the preceding decade its enterprise had been broadened in many ways. A stave and heading factory had been established in 1864, and was one of the cornerstones of the village's subsequent growth. A sawmill had been built in 1855 and a flouring mill in 1863.

An interesting contrast illustrating the growth of the village is found in the character of the buildings. The first brick building was erected on Chicago street in 1855. The business section for a number of years has been composed almost entirely of this class of buildings, and there are only a comparatively few frame structures in use for business. Furthermore, the sidewalks are largely of cement or brick. The change from wooden material to brick and stone has done more than anything else to alter the outward appearance of villages and cities from the conditions of a generation past.

In the direction of public improvements Quincy has much to be proud of. A special election on August 4, 1890, provided for the bonding of the village to an amount not to exceed $6,000 to build an electric light plant. In a short time the old kerosene street lamps, which were the cause of frequent complaint to the council, disappeared in favor of electricity on the streets and in many of the stores and private homes.

Only four years later Quincy made another step in municipal progress, and this by far the most important in its results for the comfort and convenience of the citizens. There was a special election in the village, August 6, 1894, to vote on the council's resolution to raise not to exceed $18,000 by bonds for constructing and maintaining water works. The proposition was carried by a vote of 203 to 118, and the water works were built. The water is pumped from driven wells adjacent to the power house in the public park north of the depot. Both the water works and the electric light plant are conducted by the city. Municipal ownership and operation of purely public utilities seems to be a well established civic principle in Branch County.

The fire department and council chambers are located in a two-story brick building on Main street north of Chicago. The fire department, with complete apparatus of hose cart, hook and ladder, truck and other appurtenances, with electric signal alarms, and with a disciplined force of volunteer firemen, had its origin in some very primitive means of fire protection adopted by the village council over forty years ago. In January, 1863, the council authorized the purchase for village use of eight ladders, fire hooks, and other like equipment, and in 1869 a hundred feet of hose was bought.

The Quincy Union Fire Company was organized in January, 1871, but their apparatus at first consisted only of "hooks, ladders and pails." Soon after a house was constructed for the storing of apparatus. In 1873 a second-hand engine, hose cart and hose were purchased from Adrian city, and since then the apparatus has been added to in keeping with the growth of the village.

Leaving for other chapters the mention of specific interests of Quincy, this sketch may be concluded with the mention of the business men who have longest been identified with the trade and other interests that center about the intersection of Main and Chicago streets. D. W. Young, who has recently retired, has been in the grocery business in Quincy for forty-two years. The name Houghtaling is synonymous with the drug business as well as with the public spirit that has been responsible for Quincy's advancement. C. H. Houghtaling has lived in Quincy and been connected with its mercantile affairs since 1864, and almost continuously since 1881 has been in business on his own account, the firm now being C. H. Houghtaling and Son. G. J. Fillmore, proprietor of the Commercial Hotel, which was formerly the Fayette House, is another who has been identified with the business affairs of Quincy for a number of years past. H. A. Graves, the present postmaster, who has lived here since 1865, has been in the grocery business nearly a quarter of a century. F. E. Marsh, former postmaster, has lived in the village practically all his life. As stated in the sketch of the First National Bank, C. L. Truesdell has been connected with that institution over twenty years. Mr. M. S. Segur, who occupies the position of cashier with the State Bank across the street, was in the mercantile business many years before entering the bank.

The oldest merchant in Quincy is A. L. Lytle, who has conducted a general hardware store since 1866, forty years. In the line of lumber and building material and planing mill products, the name Salisbury has been known for half a century. Thirty-five years ago J. B. Salisbury appears in an old directory as proprietor of a sash, door and blind factory and steam sawmill, and the business is now conducted by his son J. N. Salisbury, who has been a resident of Quincy since 1856. Other business men are J. B. Ganong, who engaged in the hardware business in Quincy in 1882 and for some years has conducted a plumbing business and windmill and gasoline-engine retail house; also E. H. Kinyon, proprietor of a general store, and C. N. Wilcox, the boot and shoe man.

The Village of Bronson.

The Bronson in Branch county was not the first village in Michigan to receive that name. In fact, it is probable that the name of the pioneer Jabe Bronson would not have been perpetuated by the Branch county village had not another pioneer been deprived of a similar honor. Here are the historical facts of the case:

In June, 1829, Titus Bronson, a native of Middlebury, Conn., came to

the site of the present Kalamazoo city and soon built a shanty, pre-empted a large share of the plain on which the village was built, the hamlet being called Bronson after its founder. Mr. Bronson laid out the village and set apart land for public uses, and for several years, when people spoke of Bronson, they referred to what we now know as Kalamazoo. But in 1836, the legislature, at the instance of Bronson's enemies, it is alleged, changed the name to Kalamazoo, and in the same year Titus Bronson moved away to Illinois.

A year before Titus Bronson, the founder of Kalamazoo, settled at that place, Jabe Bronson had located on Bronson's prairie. He was also from Connecticut, and it is a reasonable inference that he was a relative of Titus. But as the first settler of this locality he fared better. For not only was the township named for him, but the village of York, as it was first known, became and has since remained Bronson village. This was done by an act of the legislature approved in 1837, and reading as follows:

"All that portion of the county of Branch, known as the township of Prairie River, and the village in said township by the name of York, shall * * * be known by the name of Bronson."

The village of Bronson has been the continuation of the early settlement begun on Bronson prairie in 1828. An account of the beginnings of this settlement has been given in a previous chapter. Though this Bronson community was the first in the county to begin its life, that of Quincy preceded it in becoming incorporated as a village. Quincy was incorporated in 1858. It was not until eight years later, 1866, that the Bronson people applied to the powers that be to become a village. In this same year of 1866, though a few months earlier, Union City had been incorporated, so that of the four villages in the county Bronson stands third in the order of their incorporation. Sherwood, the fourth, did not reach this status until 1887.

In 1866 the law relating to the incorporation of villages was the legislative act of 1857, which vested authority for it in the boards of supervisors of counties. At the October session of the board of supervisors of Branch county, a petition was presented to them asking that they incorporate the Village of Bronson. This petition is spoken of in the records of the board in the county clerk's office as having been signed by George F. Gillam, Henry Powers, L. A. Rose and fourteen others. October 10, 1866, the board granted unanimously the petition, and made the persons within a certain tract of land a body corporate and politic under the name of the "Village of Bronson." The tract of land was just a mile square, and lay in sections 11, 12, 13, and 14. It was thus described: The south half of the northeast quarter and the southeast quarter of section 11, the south half of the northwest quarter and the southwest quarter of section 12, the north half of the northwest quarter of section 13, and the north half of the northeast quarter of section 14. The area as then defined has remained



South Side Main Street, Bronson

unchanged in its boundaries, and will be observed to stand upon any map of it as a perfect square.

The act of incorporation ordered the first election to "be held in that territory at the hotel in Bronson formerly kept by Marian Thompson, on Monday, the 26th day of November next." At that election officers were chosen as follows: President, Warren Byrns; trustees, Cyrus J. Keyes, Jason Shepard, Augustus Pixley, Lorenzo A. Rose, Leonard C. Clark, Henry Powers; corporation clerk, Andrew S. Parrish; treasurer, Joseph E. Earl; marshal, Spellman Dennis; assessor, George Gillam; highway commissioner, Joseph E. Earl.

In 1871 the village was reincorporated by an act of the state legislature, approved March 2. The first election under the new charter was ordered to be held "at the hotel on the corner of Matteson and Chicago streets" on the first Monday of March, 1871. By this new charter the marshal was to be appointed by the trustees and was to hold office for one year.

The number of people who associated themselves together in 1866 to live as an incorporated village was 603. This was the number found by a special census and reported to the board of supervisors in the petition for incorporation. The volumes of the national census of 1870 and of the state census of 1874 do not give us the inhabitants of the village separate from those of the township. Not until 1880 do the census men seem to realize that the village is distinct and important enough to be reported by itself. But from 1880 on we can give its population according to every census taken by the state and by the general government. It is as follows: in 1880, 826; in 1884, 823; in 1890, 875; in 1894, 864; in 1900, 1,176; and in 1904, 1,107. In the 14 years from 1866 to 1880, the population increased from 603 to 826, or about 200. The next 14 years it was virtually stationary at about 850. But during the next six years from 1894 to 1900 it jumped from 864 to 1,176, an increase of 312. The stationary period of the village from 1880 on is a part of the stationary period of the population of the county as a whole from that year on, exhibited in a previous chapter. The local break and large increase in the population of the village in 1900 is doubtless due to the establishment of the Portland cement plant a mile northeast of it in 1897. That year 1900 was the high-water mark of its population in the census years, the census of 1904 showing a decrease of 69 in the four years following 1900.

A large number of Poles have settled in Bronson township, but only a few have ever lived in the village. In 1884 there were only 45 foreign-born persons in the village in a population of 823. This was only a little more than five per cent, or one in 18.

The more important events that have taken place in the life of Bronson during the forty years of its corporate existence as a village are the following: The burning of the store of Powers & Gillam, Jan. 9, 1867; the erection of a fine brick business block on the south side of Chicago street next to Matteson street in 1867; the building of the Methodist Episcopal church in 1871; the building of the first Roman Catholic church and the

organization of the Bronson Cornet Band in 1877; the organization of the Ladies' Library Association in 1880; the erection of Clark's opera house, the establishment of the bank of L. M. Rudd & Son, and the great fire on the north side of Chicago street in 1884; the fire on Matteson street in which the Hurleys perished in 1886; the introduction of electric light in this same year; the erection of the Congregational church in 1887; the change of the Ladies' Library to the Bronson Public Library in 1888; the burning of J. Francis Ruggles' valuable collection of books and historical material, and the erection of his present building on Chicago street in 1889; the organization of Warren's Military Band in 1892; the erection of the new Roman Catholic church about this time, and later of St. Mary's School; the establishment of the Portland cement plant and the beginning of Coward Monroe's banking business in 1897; the erection of the fine new school building in 1901; and the organization of the Bronson Woman's Club in 1903.

Mr. Wells Knapp has been a business man of Bronson for thirty-nine years, having succeeded his father in the shoe business. He came to a farm in Coldwater township in 1866 and to Bronson in September, 1867, where he opened a shoe store and has been in the same business on the same spot continuously ever since, and his business career excels in continuous length that of anyone in Bronson.

Joseph Watson, now postmaster and member of the firm of Watson and Davis, has been in the jewelry business for a quarter of a century. George Robinson, the grocer, has been here fifteen years; Turner and Bushnell, furniture, succeeded Amasa Ruple & Son ten years ago. A. J. Ashbreck, the druggist, has been in business fifteen years. Charles Whitaker has conducted his market 15 years. Randall D. Powers, dry goods and groceries, succeeded his father, Charles Powers, who was listed as a "general merchant" in the old directory of 1870. Werner Brothers, hardware and carriages, have been located here fifteen years. The Clark family have been identified with the commercial side of the village for many years. Milo Clark built the principal hotel about 1875. L. D. Clark was a merchant on Matteson street about thirty-five years ago, and Eugene R. Clark, the dry-goods merchant, began business in his father's store. Another son is Myron Clark, also a merchant.

The library, the schools, the churches, the banks, the cement works and other features of Bronson are described in the proper place on other pages.

Warren's Military Band, now the Bronson Band, was organized in August, 1892. Mr. Fred L. Warren was the first leader and continued in that capacity about seven years. William Henry Davis was also with the band at the beginning and succeeded Mr. Warren as leader and is such at the present time. There were thirteen members at the start, now there are eighteen. There has been no break in the organization, and only one death—that of Mr. Charles Knapp. The "Bronson Cornet Band" was an active organization some years ago.

Sherwood.

Sherwood village was born of the Air Line Railroad. E. F. Hazen owned most of the land in section 28 on which the village has since been built. The railroad was constructed and trains began running in 1870. Almost coincident with that event Mr. Hazen and Manton E. Sawin platted a village, whose original name was designated "Hazenville," in honor of its founder. This site was considered either so unpromising or so inconsequential by the directory-makers of 1870 that no mention is to be found of any such village.

Frank M. Warner is said to have been the first merchant opening a grocery, in a building afterward used as a hotel. He was succeeded in 1871 by Jerome J. Studley, who was also postmaster. E. F. Hazen was the railroad agent at this point and also dealt in grain. The only important industry in the place at this time was the steam planing mill, on the south side of the village, its early proprietors being Sawin & Safford. There was also a steam sawmill north of the railroad.

From this state of beginnings Sherwood increased so that in 1887 it was incorporated. In the subsequent twenty years its improvement has been even more marked. The wide streets, lined with luxuriant shade trees, the handsome public park, the cement walks—and the extent of these is a matter of special pride—are the superficial aspects of a well ordered and enterprising village. The first village council convened March 31, 1887, the principal officers in that first body being Robert Fraser, president, and Elgin Barton, clerk. The principal officials of the village will be found on other pages.

CHAPTER XV.

THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY—THE GRANGE.

Agriculture as the basic industry of America is taken so much as a matter of course, and in this history has been so considered in its smaller application to Branch county, that specific statement of its importance would be superfluous. The first settlers in almost every instance were farmers. Even when his ostensible occupation was in other lines, the pioneer usually cultivated a patch of ground. We remember that this was true of Jabe Bronson, the tavern-keeper and justice. It was true of all those who had inns along the Chicago road; it was true of the earliest merchants and doctors. Specialization of industry did not arrive till after the county was well settled, and ability to till the soil was the first requisite of the pioneer. With all the building of factories and mills, the increase of trade, the growing importance of mechanical pursuits, and the attraction of the professions, agriculture yet remains the supreme industry of Branch county. Leaving aside statistics concerning the industry, any abundance of which may be found in agricultural reports and census returns, it will be the purpose of this chapter to describe as far as possible the methods and circumstances of early agriculture, and from the point of view of the past indicate the great changes that have preceded modern agriculture.

The pioneer farmers of Branch county were probably as progressive as those of any other part of the country at that time. They brought with them from their homes in the older states the methods which prevailed there. And as many of them came from the east, which was considered the most progressive section of the country, they must have known the best methods of farming which were practiced in their day.

But the first farmers of this county were confronted with a task such as has been unknown in the settlement of the more western prairie states. The obstacles to be overcome were great, the implements and means were primitive. The steel plow was not invented until after Branch county had been substantially settled and improved. Whereas the western prairie sod is turned over for the first time by immense gang-plows, drawn by four or five horses or even by a traction engine, the farmer of the twenties and thirties had to depend on a wooden moldboard shod with an iron share roughly made at a local blacksmith shop. With this hint at pioneer conditions it is evident that agriculture has undergone development in as wonderful degree as any other phase of the county's history.

The pioneer farmer's first work, after a rude temporary shelter had been provided, was to prepare a little spot of ground for the first crop. Those

who located on Coldwater, Girard and other well known prairies—and as we know those were the favorite selections of the first settlers—were very fortunate in this respect. Relieved of the necessity to clear off the trees, they had only to turn over the sod. But even so the undertaking involved labor that one man alone could hardly accomplish. The turf on the so-called prairies was very tough, and the ground in most places filled with a net-work of wire-like roots. If the location was in the woods, it was necessary to girdle the trees, clearing away the underbrush and sweeping the surface with fire. The dead trunks of the trees were usually left standing the first season, and the corn grew up among the aisles of the blasted forest.

Although the surface of the ground had been cleared, just beneath there remained the roots of the former growth, and these, formed into massive "stools," were for several years insuperable obstacles to easy farming. An ordinary plow team would have been useless among the stools and grubs, and a common plow would have been quickly demolished. The plow used was a massive construction of wood and iron, and was known as the "bull plow." The share and coulter were of iron and made very heavy and strong. The beam was long and of huge proportions to resist the enormous strain brought upon it. Usually the weight of one of these ponderous bull plows was about three hundred pounds. Six or seven yoke of oxen, and sometimes more, were required to pull this implement through the ground. With such an equipment the ordinary roots were torn from the ground like straws and subsequent cultivation was made easy. It usually took two persons to do the plowing, a man to hold the plow and either a man or a boy to drive the team. This process of "breaking" new land was made a regular business by some of the pioneers, just as threshing is at the present time.

In a few years plows with iron moldboards were introduced, but as they would not scour well in all kinds of soil they were not considered a success at first. Besides, as the ground was full of roots, of new stumps and standing trees, the wooden moldboard was less liable to break than one of iron, so it was better adapted to the conditions than the iron one. The cultivation was done with the hoe at first, then came the single-shovel plow, which was in use for a number of years. Among the trees, stumps and roots both the plowing and cultivation were tedious, laborious and disagreeable work. This condition continued for a number of years until the stumps had decayed sufficiently to make it possible to remove them.

The planting was likewise primitive. As the sod was turned over a man followed about every third furrow, dug into the top of the furrow with his foot or with a hoe and planted corn, covering it the same way. In some instances the corn was dropped in the furrow very near the outside, so that the edge of the next furrow when turned over would be directly over the grain. The corn would then come through between the furrows. In a somewhat similar way Bishop Chase planted his first crop of potatoes in Gilead in the summer of 1832. Wheat was sown among the stumps and trees. The grain was harrowed in with a wooden-toothed harrow. The

farmer who did not have even one of these rude implements would cut a small tree, trim off part of the limbs so as to leave a bushy end, weight it with a log, and hitching his team to it would get about the same results as from a tooth harrow.

In harvesting the corn, the stalk was not utilized as is done at the present day. The prevailing practice was to pull the ear from the stalk, husk and all, haul the corn to a pile and then husk it. The husk was utilized for feed, and as much of the grain as was not needed for home consumption was hauled away to market. As soon as large crops of corn were grown husking bees became the fashion. The corn was pulled from the stalk and put in a pile, as when the farmer himself or he and his family did the husking. Then a number of neighbors assembled and everybody husked. This was repeated at the home of each farmer until all had their crops husked.

Wheat was harvested with the cradle, such an implement as a reaper or harvesting machine of any kind not then being dreamed of. Besides the cradle the sickle also was in use at that time. But that was used only in wheat that had blown down or grew among stumps and trees, making it difficult and sometimes impossible to cradle. And for the first few years that was a large portion of the crop. It was well that only a limited area could be sown, because had there been a greater acreage it doubtless would not have been harvested. The work of harvesting with those old-time implements was extremely slow in comparison with the way it can be done with our improved harvesting machinery. The inventions with which we at this day are so familiar at that time, even in their crudest form, seemed far-off and visionary. For instance, it was with the air of wonder that a twentieth century newspaper would describe the achievement of a dirigible air-ship that an issue of the Coldwater Sentinel of June, 1843, speaks of a new reaping machine invented by McCormick. The reader can judge from the description how crude that machine was when compared with those that will be found in nearly every farmer's barn at this age. "The machine," reads the article, "placed on small wheels, was moved by two horses around the rye field where the exhibition took place, at a quick pace; making a clear passage through the grain as it moved, about five feet wide. This it did with a completeness which it is impossible for a cradle to accomplish. The wheels of the machine kept in motion a saw, with edge and teeth not unlike a reap-hook, which saws down the grain as it is bent and forced against its edge by a revolving apparatus resembling a seine-reel. The grain falls upon a bed or platform just behind the teeth, whence it is raked by hand."

The threshing was done either with a flail or the grain was tramped out by horses. Both processes were very slow, the former being about as slow as harvesting with the sickle. When horses were used a threshing floor was made out of doors by smoothing the ground or beating it until it was as solid as could be made. The horses were ridden by boys, while two men worked the grain toward the center of the floor and threw out the straw.

In the early forties a machine came into use which threshed out the grain and dispensed both with the use of the flail and the tramping of horses.

This machine consisted only of a cylinder and was operated by horse power. When the threshing was done by any of these methods the grain had to be separated from the chaff by fanning with a sheet, the wind blowing the chaff away. There were no fanning mills then, but they were introduced a few years later. These mills were in the crudest form, but they were considered a great improvement over the winnowing sheet. All of this labor had to be done in order that the farmer might produce a supply of wheat sufficient to provide bread for his family and if possible a small surplus to sell.

Corn and wheat were the two leading crops then as they are now. Other crops that were grown were oats, rye, potatoes, buckwheat and flax. Oats were usually fed in the straw, only enough being threshed out for the next year's seed. A patch of potatoes was planted on every farm for home use, but there were very few, if any, grown for market. The crop being a bulky one and the market so distant made the growing of potatoes as a market crop impracticable. Flax was raised for home use, the product being manufactured into linen for a part of the family's wearing apparel.

For many years the hay crop consisted of the native grasses. Many farmers believed that the improved domestic grasses could not be grown here, and it was some time before this prejudice was overcome. When the settlers were yet few in number the prairie grasses furnished an abundant supply of hay for their live-stock. When the prairie lands were all taken up each farmer on those lands set off a portion of his farm for meadow, but this was sufficient only for the owner, and those who had settled in the timber had to look elsewhere for a supply. There was an abundant growth of grass on what were then known as wet prairies, which we now call marshes. At first every settler could find a sufficient supply of this marsh grass near his home if he had none on his farm. This hay had to be mowed by hand, then thrown together and hauled from the marsh on a small sled drawn by a yoke of oxen, or even at times had to be carried to firm ground "on a pole," as was the expression used at the time. The ground was so soft that a team of horses and a wagon could not be driven over it. Only a small bit could be hauled out at a time in this way, and it took a number of these sled loads to make a wagon load. The same method of making hay had to be employed on all the wet prairies of those days.

With this view of the status of agriculture sixty years ago, it is not difficult to realize the broad developments that have taken place since then. Farming has become easier with every year. Its conditions and surroundings are no longer those of the common laborer. Several things have contributed to this change. Some claim that the invention of labor-saving machinery and its general use has done more to elevate agriculture than any other factor. It certainly is not wide of the mark to measure the progress of agriculture by the distance that separates the self-binder from the cradle. Yet there are other factors. The working and hiring of help has been quite reformed from the methods of forty years ago. The progressive farmer no longer depends on transient labor. Not many years ago, when

harvest time or other extra press of work arrived, the farmer would start out into the surrounding country and hire by the day such men as were available. This is neither practicable nor possible now. Improved machinery has done much to relieve the farmer of the necessity of hiring day laborers. His policy now is to hire a man by the year, and often a man of family, who will live on the farm and give it his entire attention.

Transportation has also effected many changes in farming methods. In place of marketing by the bushel, the farmer now markets "on the hoof," that is, feeds his grain products to stock. And of recent years the farmers do not hesitate to import stock cattle from distant ranges of the Dakotas or the Southwest and feed them for market on grain raised in Branch county. This in itself is one of the most important developments in Branch county agriculture. In the words of a well known farmer, "Branch county is now becoming a feeding ground for foreign stock and grain."

In a general upward trend of property values, land is the last thing to appreciate. At a distance of ten years from the beginning of the present era of remarkable prosperity, the farm lands of Branch county show only a slight upward trend in value. But there is greater demand for land than ever before, and as a rule it is passing into the hands of an immigrating farmer class from Ohio and Northern Indiana, where farm lands are held about twenty per cent higher than here. This direction of immigration will, if it continues, prove a considerable factor in the next twenty-five years in giving type and character to the population of the county.

In the matter of stock-raising one example will suffice. Branch county has always been a sheep county. Wool was one of the first commodities to be produced, and in an early day there were several woolen mills in the county. Formerly each farmer had a few sheep among his other stock, but no extensive sheep-feeding was done. As instanced above, sheep are now being brought in from western ranges to be fed on Branch county farms, and while the native sheep are still a large number it is more profitable to import the stock and only condition them for market in this county.

One of the conspicuous methods of caring for crops should be mentioned. Within recent years progressive farmers have built silo plants for the purpose of preserving the essential qualities of "roughening" or fodder throughout the winter season. One of the first things to catch the attention on many farms in the county is the silo plant, and often there are several of them. In these huge cylindrical, air-tight tanks, built of "silo lumber," and some of the recent ones of cement, the green corn, stalk and all, after being cut up by a special machine, is stored very much as vegetables are canned. While in the reservoir it undergoes a slight fermentation process, but with the exception of a small portion on the surface, which rots and molds just as the top of a can of fruit often does, and which is thrown out before the rest is used, the entire contents of the tank are preserved with original sweetness and wholesomeness for feeding to stock during the severe winter season. What an improvement this method is over the old one of

stacking the dry fodder in the late fall, when most of its essential qualities had dried out, even one unfamiliar with agriculture can readily realize.

The Grange.

We have spoken of some of the factors which have worked for the uplift and improvement of agriculture and its conditions. The leading organized movement that has worked to this end is conceded to be the Grange, whose basic purposes are educational, fraternal and the general improvement of the farmer and his family and the conditions under which he works. The Grange was the first fraternal organization to admit the wives and daughters on an equal basis in every way, and it has done more to educate farming communities than any other movement.

The national Grange organization was commenced in 1867, but it was the fall of 1873 before the movement had reached Branch county. High tide was reached in 1875, when the county had seventeen granges. The general name applicable to the organization as a whole is "Patrons of Husbandry," the "granges" being the subordinate branches, but the name grange is the one generally used in referring to all departments of the organization.

The oldest grange in the county with a continuous existence from the date of foundation to the present time is Butler Grange No. 88, which was organized October 10, 1873. As will be seen from the number, Matteson Grange No. 86 was organized some time previous, but is no longer existent. The granges in the state are numbered according to the order of their formation, and taking the granges of Branch county in the order of their age, the eleven active granges as well as those no longer active are as follows: Matteson No. 86 (defunct), Butler No. 88, Bronson No. 91, Batavia No. 95, Sherwood No. 96, Union No. 97, Athens No. 98 (whose members were mainly from Branch county—now defunct), Kinderhook No. 135 (defunct), Girard No. 136, Coldwater No. 137, Grove No. 138 (defunct), Bethel No. 148 (defunct), Quincy No. 152, Summit No. 217 (defunct), California No. 233 (defunct), North Algansee No. 234, Champion No. 261 (defunct), Gilead No. 400, and Four Towns, which has been recently organized. How rapidly these granges were organized during the first years of the movement may be inferred from the fact that though Girard Grange No. 136 was organized November 25, 1873, only a few weeks after Butler, there were six Branch county granges that intervened, while its number was forty-eight removed from Butler.

The grange meetings were at first held in some convenient schoolhouse, but now nearly every grange in the county owns its own hall, which is dedicated to the use of the society and is seldom used for any other purpose. The strength of the grange in this county, in point of membership, is between eight hundred and a thousand members. There is a regular system of representation in the organization from the subordinate bodies through the State and National bodies. From the eleven subordinate granges in this county three delegates are elected to the annual meeting of the State

Grange, and Pomona Grange, which is the county grange, is entitled to one delegate to the State Grange. The masters of the State Grange are the official delegates to the National Grange.

Branch County Pomona Grange No. 22, which is a connecting link between the subordinate granges and the State Grange and which exercises friendly and advisory oversight, but no official control, over the subordinate bodies, was organized March 21, 1878. The petitioners for its organization were: George W. Van Aken, a pioneer granger, who was active in the formation of the Girard Grange in 1873; John G. Parkhurst and wife, Eli Bidleman, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. George, Charles H. Austin, D. C. Fonda, A. S. Archer, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Pierce, William Joseph, Wallace E. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Jones, Darwin Thompson, and John Bell.

The officers of Pomona Grange for 1906 are: Master, Isaac E. Corless; overseer, Belle Bailey; lecturer, Mrs. Lucy Corless; steward, A. L. Smith; asst. steward, Frank Coward; treasurer, I. A. Martin; secretary, Asa W. Ferguson; gatekeeper, I. A. Van Orsdal; pomona, Mrs. Elmer Warner; flora, Mrs. Fred Locke; ceres, Theda Bailey; lady assistant steward, Mrs. I. A. Martin.

A few words should be said about the work of the grange in general. The grange was one of the most active forces behind pure-food legislation in Michigan, and to its efforts—to give only one example—is due the fact that oleomargarine must be labeled with its true name and not as butter. The grange has more or less actively entered the field of commerce. In some counties "Grange Stores" have been established and successfully conducted.

The grange claims to be the father of rural free delivery. Certainly it has used its influence nowhere to better advantage, for free delivery in the country is now conceded to be the greatest boon that has come to the farmer. It has brought the farmer in touch with the world and more than anything else has made obsolete the term "countryfied" as applied to the tiller of the soil. And this is in direct line with the purposes of the grange, as stated in a former paragraph.

When the grange first brought the matter before Congress, it was objected that the "system would be too expensive," despite its great benefits. Tentative experiments were made at rural delivery of mail about 1894. In 1896 the annual report of the State Grange "hails with delight that the plan is to be started in this state." As is well known, the movement thus begun has now spread all over the country and every farmer in Branch county can have his daily paper with little if any more exertion than the citizen of the village or city.

BRANCH COUNTY FARMERS' INSTITUTE SOCIETY.

This society, so closely identified with the interests of the agriculturist that its history belongs to this chapter, was organized at Coldwater July 27, 1895, with thirty-two charter members. The constitution proposed by the state board of agriculture was adopted, and the following were elected its

first officers: L. M. Marsh, president; A. J. Aldrich, secretary-treasurer. The executive committee was composed of the president, the secretary and A. L. Smith, E. E. Lewis, and A. M. Etheridge. The vice-presidents from the various townships and wards were: Butler, T. P. Evans; Quincy, A. M. Etheridge; Algansee, A. F. Archer; California, John Flynn; Kinderhook, A. C. Doerr; Ovid, E. C. Lockwood; Coldwater, Henry Straight; Girard, A. L. Smith; Union, Byron W. Bray; Batavia, Edwin E. Lewis; Bethel, Henry Fowler; Gilead, E. G. Luce; Noble, Ambrose Bushnell; Bronson, Richard Coward; Matteson, Amos Gardner; Sherwood, L. P. Wilcox; Coldwater, first ward, Cyrus G. Luce; second ward, George W. Van Aken; third ward, G. H. Turner; fourth ward, E. W. Treat.

The society had a total membership in 1899 of 335, and it has maintained that strength, the membership in 1906 being 332. The meeting of February, 1906, was the largest ever held, 3,731 persons attending the literary, musical and educative programs offered.

The officers for 1906 are as follows: Abram L. Smith, president; Henry E. Straight, secretary-treasurer; and vice-presidents: California, D. T. Bascom; Kinderhook, A. C. Doerr; Gilead, W. J. Bucklin; Noble, A. Bushnell; Algansee, L. G. Taylor; Ovid, Lafayette Scheidler; Bethel, Charles Daniels; Bronson, Frank Coward; Bronson Village, T. A. Eberhard; Quincy, M. D. Knauss; Quincy Village, A. L. Bowen; Coldwater, Robert Brewster; first ward, M. E. Wattles; second ward, L. E. Lockwood; third ward, C. J. Thorpe; fourth ward, E. W. Treat; Batavia, I. A. Martin; Matteson, Frank Martin; Butler, F. M. Holmes; Girard, E. T. Waffle; Union, B. W. Bray; Union City, D. D. Buell; Sherwood, J. S. Dunks; Sherwood Village, F. M. Daniels.

BRANCH COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

This society, under whose auspices the county fairs have always been conducted, was organized October 17, 1851. The first officers of the society were James B. Tompkins, president; John Allen, vice-president; F. V. Smith, secretary; and H. W. Wright, treasurer. Other well known men took part in the work of organization, such as Asahel Brown, Alvarado Brown, E. B. Pond, William P. Arnold, Darwin Wilson, John Root, Oliver Burdick, Jr., Emerson Marsh.

The first annual fair was held at Coldwater October 7, 1852, only one day being given to it and the premium list aggregating only two hundred dollars. In 1854 the session was extended to three days. In the same year the society purchased six acres on Grand street near the north edge of the village, as a place for holding their exhibitions. This ground was sold in 1863, and the Agricultural Society and the Coldwater Agricultural and Breeders' Association, which had been organized in 1862, united in buying twenty acres on the west side of Marshall street near the north side of the village. This is the ground now commonly referred to as "the old fair grounds." It was increased to thirty acres in 1878.

Fairs were held annually until after 1897, and the association did much to promote agricultural and live-stock interest in the county.

CHAPTER XVI.

MANUFACTURING IN BRANCH COUNTY.

It would be interesting to know just how the population of Branch county is classified among the various business activities, that is, the proportion of the county's twenty-six thousand people engaged in each general class of occupation. At best it would be possible only to approximate such a classification. But as regards the industrial and manufacturing situation, some very interesting deductions may be drawn from the last report of the Michigan Bureau of Labor, giving the results of factory inspection made in this county in April, 1905.

In this report sixty-one firms and factories are named, thirty-four of which are located at Coldwater, nine at Union City, eight at Quincy, seven at Bronson, two at Sherwood and one at Batavia. The whole number of employes found at the time of inspection was 1,173. This approximates five per cent of the population of Branch county dependent on what are officially designated as "factory" industries. Were the data at hand for all the handicrafts and manufactories of the county, the proportion of those engaged in industrial pursuits would be much larger, perhaps at least ten per cent of the entire population.

Of the plants reported, thirty-four were located at Coldwater. In these twenty-three kinds of goods were made or handled. There were reported 712 employes, indicating that in a city of six thousand population one person out of nine depends on these industries for means of livelihood. This proportion is too small to place Coldwater among so-called "factory towns," where the percentage of factory operatives is often twenty-five per cent of the population; at the same time this form of activity is a considerable and distinct part of the city's general prosperity.

Of the manufacturing establishments named in the report, those which extent of business or length of time established make worthy of mention in this chapter are:

At Bronson: The Bronson-Kalamazoo Portland Cement Company, which was established in 1897 and at the date of inspection had 61 employes. (See elsewhere.) The Bronson Basket factory, established in 1895; the electric light plant, established in 1886; the William Friedrich Company (see elsewhere).

At Coldwater: Ball Brothers Planing Mill, established in 1866 and employing 14 hands at the time of inspection; the Coldwater Gas and Fuel Company, organized in 1860, having 14 employes in 1905; W. A. Coombs Milling Company, the early history of which is given elsewhere, and which

at its three establishments employs 36 men; the Conover Engraving and Printing Company, established in 1898 and employing nine persons; the City Brewery, established in 1894; Charles W. Chapman, manufacturer of cigars, established in 1880; Henry B. George, custom flour and feed grinding, established in 1880; Hellinburg & Son, turning and wood work, 16 employes, and established in 1876; Johnson Cooperage Company, established in 1868; National Burial Device Company, 14 employes, established in 1899; Pratt Manufacturing Company (see elsewhere); A. J. Pierce, cigar manufacturer, 10 employes, established in 1890; Regal Gasoline Engine Company (see elsewhere); William H. Schmedlen, carriages, established in 1883; Titus Thurlow, iron castings, established in 1868; Tappan Shoe Manufacturing Company, with 86 employes, established in 1897; Wolverine Portland Cement Company (see elsewhere.)

At Quincy: Globensky Brothers, barrel manufacturers (see elsewhere); Felix A. McKenzie, milling (see elsewhere); J. N. Salisbury, building material, established in 1886; Wolverine Portland Cement Company, established in 1899 (see elsewhere).

At Sherwood: J. N. French, lumber, with 22 employes, established in 1881; Sherwood Heading Company (see elsewhere).

At Union City: B. F. Green, general repairing, established in 1870; Peerless Portland Cement Company (see elsewhere).

SOME REPRESENTATIVE MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS.*

B. H. Calkins & Son Co., manufacturers of cooperage and cooperage stock at Coldwater, was first organized in Butler township in 1869, by B. H. Calkins and his brother M. M. Calkins, and was known as Calkins Brothers. Owing to a lack of railroad facilities in that place the factory was removed in 1874 to its present location. After locating in Coldwater, Mr. L. B. Johnson, G. H. Taylor, and the banking firm of Bowen & McGowan also entered into partnership. This arrangement existed until 1877. During all of the subsequent changes, Mr. B. H. Calkins has been at the head. Since 1897 Mr. M. D. Calkins has been a member of the firm, and up to June 23, 1905, the firm was known as B. H. Calkins & Son, at which time the company was incorporated under its present name, B. H. Calkins & Son Co. The business has always been successful, although passing through five fires, the last being March 6, 1901, at which time Mr. B. H. Calkins was severely burned, and was forced to give up active business relations. He never recovered from the shock to the nervous system, and passed away October 15, 1905. Mr. M. D. Calkins, who has had charge of the business since March, 1901, is president and manager of the corporation, Miss Almera H. Calkins, secretary and treasurer. This business has afforded a market to the farmers for all kinds of timber, at good prices. The firm purchase each year from

* Letters asking for data were sent to all the larger manufacturing firms in the county and information has been sought from other sources, but sufficient material for a sketch was not obtained in every case.—EDITOR.

eight to ten thousand cords of timber, which means a yearly expenditure of $30,000 in that line. They also pay out an equal amount for labor. The firm enjoys a large trade in flour, cement, poultry, glass, fruit and pork barrels. A great amount of the heading and staves manufactured is also shipped to outside shops.

The Pratt Manufacturing Company was established in 1882 by J. F. Pratt and Wellington Chase, who came to Coldwater from Homer, New York, in that year. The business was started under the name of Pratt & Chase and continued under that title until the death of Mr. Chase in 1890. The business was established in a modest way in an old country tavern or inn known as the Bolster House and located at the corner of Railroad and Division streets. Changes and additions to the building were rapidly made until within ten years the old tavern had almost entirely disappeared. In 1902 Mr. J. F. Pratt retired from the business, and a corporation was formed, which took over the entire business and plant which had accumulated up to that time. At present the buildings have about 80,000 feet of floor space, and give steady employment the year round to about 125 men. The product, which consists of children's sleds as the larger part, is sold through the entire snow-belt of the United States. During the spring and summer months this company manufactures a line of porch and lawn furniture, which is shipped throughout the United States from ocean to ocean. The officers of the company are H. B. Fisher, president; A. B. Schied, vice-president; A. J. Pratt, secretary and treasurer.

The Regal Gasoline Engine Company, manufacturers of marine and stationary engines, Coldwater, was incorporated in August, 1901. The present officers of the company are A. E. Robinson, president; H. D. Robinson, vice-president; H. R. Saunders, secretary and treasurer. All of the stock is owned by these and Elmer J. Allen. They build a line of marine engines, also some sizes of stationary engines, but give marine engines the most attention. They employ 30 to 40 machinists. The output is sold principally on the eastern coast from Maine to Florida, on the western coast from Seattle to San Diego. They also have many desirable agencies in New England, middle states and extreme south. They have an excellent trade with New Zealand, Australia, Fiji Islands, Italy, Belgium, and Finland. The Regal Gasoline Engine Company started in rather a small way, but has steadily increased in size.

The Conover Engraving and Printing Company was founded in 1877 by the late J. S. Conover. The beginning was a small one, the outfit consisting of a small hand lever printing press and some second-hand type from the "hell-box" of a Quincy printing office, but under careful management the business grew rapidly and in 1881 the present building was purchased and new machinery and material were added as fast as needed. Although all classes of engraving and general commercial printing are done here, still the Conover Engraving and Printing Company makes a specialty of labels and show cards, as well as high-class color work. A leading feature is the manufacture of cigar labels. The Conover establishment is a model engrav-

ing and printing plant. The headquarters are in a substantial three-story brick block on West Chicago street, the three floors being devoted to the business. The printing equipment is one of the best in this portion of the state and, as can well be imagined, the patronage is very large.

The Johnson Cooperage Company was established in Coldwater in 1868 by Mr. Chas. W. Johnson. The first plant was of necessity a small one, but it has steadily grown until today the factory and yards cover over five acres of ground. The company manufactures barrels, kegs, pails, etc. The Johnson Cooperage Company was organized in its present form in 1894, capitalized at $15,000.

The Coldwater Gas Light and Fuel Company had its origin in 1860, when A. W. Parkhurst, H. C. Lewis, J. G. Parkhurst, D. S. Harrington and Artemus Allen organized the Coldwater Gas Light Company, with a capital stock of $25,000. The works were built in 1861, and extensions and improvements have taken place consistent with the growth of the business and the city. Through the efforts of the late William A. Coombs the business was reorganized in 1895 as the Coldwater Gas Light and Fuel Company with a capital stock of $40,000. It is estimated that there are a thousand patrons of the company in Coldwater, where gas has been in general use for fuel and light during nearly half a century. The present officers of the company are: L. M. Wing, president; J. W. Thompson, vice-president; Geo. C. Turner, secretary and superintendent; W. E. Moss, treasurer.

The Sherwood Heading Company, manufacturers of slack barrel and keg heading, was organized and put in operation about the year 1883 by Stafford & Ott, sold to H. Sayers & Son about 1886, then to C. B. Wilcox in 1896, then to J. F. McIntyre & Company, April 15, 1903, and reorganized January 1, 1906, under the name of Sherwood Heading Company, which is the firm name now. They employ about fifteen men, on an average, and turn and sell about one carload of heading per week, which is sold all over the country, but principally in New York and Pittsburg, Pa. They use from five thousand to six thousand cords of bolts each year to get out this amount of stock. The officers of the company are: J. F. McIntyre, president and general manager; Geo. H. Seymour, vice-president and treasurer; Guy E. McIntyre, superintendent and secretary.

The William H. Friedrich Company, manufacturers of veneers at Bronson, whose plant was entirely burned June 3, 1906, commenced operation in Bronson in 1900 by remodeling and installing an electric light plant which then had about 450 lights. The village now has over three thousand lights installed, which shows a lively increase for the size of the town. In 1901 the company added the coal business, which has been well patronized ever since, and in 1902 started the veneer mill, making a good home market for high-grade logs and timber, which business has also increased every year. In 1903 was added a saw mill, which also made a home market for cheaper grades of timber, and with the combined industries the plant was running day and night at the time it burned. They took measures to rebuild at once.

Globensky Brothers, at Quincy, are the successors in manufacturing of the Quincy Stave and Heading Factory, which, as elsewhere stated, was one of the first large industries in the village. It was established by H. L. and E. G. Lownsberry and L. P. Alden in 1864, was for some time conducted under the firm name of H. L. Lownsberry & Company, and its manufactured product of staves and headings was very large, as many as fifty persons often being employed. Globensky Brothers bought the plant about 1890, and after remodeling and refurnishing, began a general barrel, stave and cooperage business.

The McKenzie Cereal Food and Milling Company is another Quincy manufacturing plant that is historical as well as extensive in its present business. The first flour mill was built in Quincy in 1863, and it is from this small mill, through a number of successors, that the present plant originated. Mr. F. A. McKenzie has been the energizing spirit since 1887, at which time the business passed under control of the firm of McKenzie and Hyslop. In 1894 Mr. McKenzie became sole proprietor, and in 1903 the business was incorporated under the name as given above, Mr. McKenzie owning most of the stock. The plant has been entirely rebuilt five times, and its capacity increased accordingly. From ten to fifteen men are employed, and the company has a warehouse in Erie, Penn., for the distribution of their products, which consist of several special food preparations, besides flour, buckwheat and mill feed.

The Portland Cement Industry.

Until a few years ago the natural products of Branch county were practically all confined to the agricultural class. There are no coal deposits beneath the surface, no certain supply of gas, no minerals. Brick has been made here from an early day, there is a supply of building stone, but aside from these the products of the county have been mainly those of the soil.

From the early days the settlers had known of the existence of marl, more popularly called "merle" or "bog lime." No doubt they had discovered it in sinking their wells. They also found that this marl would serve as a substitute for quick-lime in making building mortar, and as lime, like all other materials that had to be imported, was hard to get and expensive to the first settlers, where a marl deposit was convenient they used the raw material for plastering up the chinks of their log houses. In some localities the marl was burned in kilns and thus reduced to quick-lime. It is said that, scattered over the marl-producing area, many log houses are still standing which were built with mortar of this kind, or even with the unburned marl itself.

Lime lake on section 26 of Batavia township was named because of the deposit of marl found along its shores. The manufacture of lime from this deposit is proved by an advertisement that appeared in the Coldwater Sentinel in November, 1843. In this paper it is stated that Hervey Miller "has constantly on hand a quantity of lime at his kiln, five miles west of this

village on the Chicago road. It is manufactured from the marl of the marshes, and is as strong as the best stone lime."

But aside from this manufacture and use of the marl deposits, marl did not become an article of commercial importance in Branch county until very nearly the close of the last century. From the preceding paragraph it is evident that marl is not a recent "discovery" in this county, any stories to that effect notwithstanding. But it was only ten years ago that the marl deposits became the basis for the most valuable manufacturing interests which the county possesses.

Marl and clay are the principal raw materials in the manufacture of Portland cement. The existence of both in large quantities in Branch county makes this a field of great value for the production of cement. It is hardly necessary to state the commercial uses to which Portland cement is now put in the world's industries. It is only a few years since it began to enter into engineering and architectural construction, and now it is being used by the millions of barrels. Vast quantities will be used in constructing the Panama canal. Its use in steel construction is now thoroughly established. Cement blocks are being substituted for stone and brick in dwelling, business and public edifices. Stone, brick and wood have been building materials through all the ages. The age of "steel construction" began some years ago; and this history is being written at what is probably the beginning of a "cement age," in which cement either alone or in combination will be employed in greater quantities than any other material.

Michigan now manufactures cement next in quantity to New Jersey, although ten years ago this product was inconsiderable in this state and was confined almost entirely to New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. Branch county can claim recognition as a pioneer in this manufacture. Not only had the existence of marl beds been known for years, but experimentation and prospecting had been done for several years before the first plant was actually established. Hiram Bennett, of Quincy, after having visited the cement works at South Bend and finding that marl was used in the manufacture of cement, in 1892 prospected in and around the lakes in the eastern part of the county, and tried to induce capitalists to invest money in an enterprise which would make use of the marl. But nothing was effected, and it remained for another village of the county to gain the first honor for beginning the manufacture of cement from the marl beds.

The oldest cement manufactory in the county is at Union City. Not only so, but it is claimed that it is the oldest successful Portland cement company in Michigan. The Peerless Portland Cement Company was organized August 23, 1896, incorporated under the laws of Michigan, with a capital of $250,000, and first began the manufacture of cement in 1897. Important changes in equipment and methods were made from time to time, and the daily capacity is now 1,800 barrels of the Peerless brand. The plant is located at Union City, and the company owns marl and clay lands within a mile of the works and also at Spring Arbor. Mr. J. R. Patterson has been manager of the company since 1899.

A brief description of the process of manufacture at this plant will apply to cement manufacture in general throughout the county. The marl is dredged from the lakes and loaded on cars and hauled to the factory by a railroad owned and operated by the company. There the marl is weighed and dumped directly into a mixing machine, where water and the right amount of clay are added. After a thorough mixing in this, it is dumped into a pug mill, where the mixing process continues. After a sufficient pugging, the mass, then called "slurry," is run into a large vat, which is furnished with mixing and stirring devices. As soon as one vat is filled and thoroughly mixed, two samples are taken for analysis. If the composition proves to be lacking in any respect the required ingredient is added and the whole mass mixed, sampled and analyzed as before. This is repeated until the correct chemical composition is obtained. The slurry is then elevated and run into large cylinder tube mills half filled with flint pebbles. As these mills revolve the slurry is ground to a fine silky paste. As the slurry leaves the tube mills it is conveyed into large storage vats, where it is kept in constant motion by the aid of compressed air, thus avoiding all settling and assuring additional mixing. From these vats it is again elevated and passed into a battery of rotary kilns. These rotaries at the Union City plant are each seventy feet long. The slurry runs in at one end and in its progress through the kiln is thoroughly dried and burned, dropping out at the other end in the form of clinker. The fuel used is pulverized coal, which is ignited and blown into the kiln at one end. After the clinker is passed through the cooling machines, a steel conveyor delivers it into a set of very heavy steel rolls, where it is reduced to the size of rice. Then it is conveyed to the hoppers which feed the Griffin mills, by which it is ground to a fine powder.

These are the salient features of the manufacture. A cement plant is a large institution, representing a great outlay of capital (it is said that the first cost of a plant is at the minimum three hundred thousand dollars), much executive aiblity, and a large supply of skilled and common labor. When it is recalled that Branch county now has four of these plants within her area, all built within the last ten years, it is seen how large and important has been the contribution of this industry to the permanent wealth and active resources of the county. According to the state report for 1905 there were only thirteen plants in operation in the entire state of Michigan, the total number of plants being seventeen. Thus Branch county has at least a fourth of the cement-producing equipment of the state of Michigan. From the same report the total daily capacity of the seventeen plants was 19,200 barrels, and of the four Branch county plants, 5,800, which is more than a fourth of the combined capacity of Michigan cement industries. The total number of employes in these four industries is 458, taking the figures of the factory inspector in 1905.

At Bronson village is the cement plant, the largest manufacturing industry in the western part of the county. Cement was first manufactured at these works in 1897, and the capacity has been increased to 1,200 barrels a day. The company owns about five hundred acres of low, wet land about

the works, and both the clay and the marl are obtained from the land. The stratum of marl is found three feet below the surface, the top three feet being peat, which is removed by dredging.

The Bronson plant was first operated as the "Bronson-Kalamazoo Portland Cement Company," but in 1905 it was made a part of the Chanute Cement and Clay Product Company, the Bronson plant being known as the "Bronson Division" of the same. The officers in 1906 are: President, John F. Townsend, Akron, O.; vice-president and general manager, J. R. Patterson, of Union City; treasurer, Henry Robinson; secretary, W. E. Wheeler; Michigan agent, C. H. Powley, Bronson.

The history of the Coldwater Portland Cement Co., which was organized May 25, 1898, and of its successor, the Michigan Portland Cement Co., which was organized June 30, 1898, is continued in the Wolverine Portland Cement Company, which was organized early in 1902, with a capital stock of $1,000,000. This group of companies has had a somewhat varied financial history, but this has not prevented the steady production of cement under the Wolverine brand. The first company planned, the Coldwater, was a relatively modest affair, with a capital stock of $300,000. Soon the plans were enlarged, and the original company under the name of the American Construction Company took the contract of preparing the plant, turning in what it had done to the larger company, the Michigan Portland Cement Company, which issued a million dollars of bonds, covering the plant and the lands. In recapitalizing, $100 in six per cent bonds was offered with every $100 of stock for $100 cash. When, therefore, in the fall of 1901, interest failed to be paid on these bonds, foreclosure proceedings were begun, and as a result of the conference between the bondholders, who may be taken to represent the subscribing public, and the other creditors, prominent among which was the Construction Company, representing the promoters, the present company, the Wolverine Portland Cement Company, was formed.

The Wolverine Company control and operate both the plant at Quincy and that at Coldwater. The "Wolverine" brand of cement has been on the market since 1898, when the Coldwater plant was completed, and the "Eclipse" brand since 1900, when the plant at Quincy was put in operation.

The present officers of the Wolverine Portland Cement Company are: L. M. Wing, of Coldwater, president; Frank M. Rudd, of Bronson, Mich., vice-president; and E. R. Root, Coldwater, secretary and treasurer.

CHAPTER XVII.

BRANCH COUNTY BANKS AND FINANCE.

The history of banking in Branch county goes back to the days of "wild-cat" currency and reckless speculation, which set in shortly after Michigan was admitted to statehood. The old Coldwater Bank began its existence in December, 1837, when it was organized under the provisions of an act of the legislature passed in the preceding March. Some of the most prominent men of that day were directly concerned in its organization, the stockholders being Hanchett & Holbrook, William A. Kent, L. D. & P. H. Crippen, James H. Hanchett, Robert Baker, R. J. Champion, William Reynolds, H. Cowles, Ed Sloan, B. Crippen, Lewis Goddard of Detroit, John J. Curtis, Loren Marsh, John Conley, Martin Olds, Harvey Warner, Lot Whitcomb, J. S. Ware, Enoch Jones, L. Taylor and E. G. Fuller.

The bank was opened in a little one-story building on the north side of Chicago street, east of Monroe, where Sloman's and Flandermeyer's stores are located. L. D. Crippen was the first president. The directing spirits of the institution, however, were two men from outside the county, Goddard and Ware, whose business it was to organize banks and to manipulate the clever financial schemes of that day. Their theories as to banking and finance were so elaborate, yet so plausible, that the other stockholders and directors submissively put away practical opinions and every-day business methods and followed their lead almost without question. The bills of the bank were issued to the amount allowed by law, with no specie in the vault to redeem them. The two promoters soon after carried away with them about fifty thousand dollars of these bills for the purpose of turning them into cash and, as they said, "creating specie." They did dispose of most of the bills, but they never returned with the proceeds to Coldwater, and the honest pioneer stockholders who remained behind were left to pay the incoming bills as best they could. The Crippens struggled hard to maintain the integrity of the institution, becoming personally responsible to the amount of twenty thousand dollars, but without avail, for the bank failed utterly within a year after it was founded.

Some time after this experience in "wild-cat" finance, Lorenzo D. Crippen and Clinton B. Fisk opened the "Exchange Bank of Crippen and Fisk." This bank, though without a hint of the methods of its predecessor, had a very difficult career, for banking and finance were in a state of terrible confusion owing to the lack of uniformity and inadequacy of the laws, both state and national, that regulated such matters. Crippen and Fisk suspended payment in 1857, during the financial panic of that year, but the proprietors

of the Exchange Bank settled with all their creditors in full and no stigma attached to their failure. The following partnerships successively operated the Exchange Bank after the suspension: Clinton B. Fisk and Henry C. Lewis; H. C. Lewis, Alonzo F. Bidwell, and I. G. Miles; Lewis and (George A.) Kellogg; Lewis and (George) Starr; Edwin R. Clarke and Starr; and David B. Dennis and Starr.

Coldwater National Bank.

Dennis and Starr were succeeded by the Coldwater National Bank, which with over forty years of continuous financial operation, not to mention its antecedents, is the oldest banking house in Branch county. It was organized May 30, 1865, with a capital stock of $100,000. The first officers and directors were: H. C. Lewis, president; D. B. Dennis, vice-president; George Starr, cashier, who had begun with the Exchange Bank in 1856. The directors were: H. C. Lewis, D. B. Dennis, George Starr, Artemus Allen, Charles Upson, C. B. Jones, A. Waterman, David Thompson, D. R. Cooley, C. G. Luce.

The Coldwater National Bank now has a capital and surplus of $135,000. Its present officers and directors are: L. M. Wing, president; Z. G. Osborn, vice-president; H. R. Saunders, cashier. Directors, Louis Sloman, H. R. Saunders, K. R. Williams, F. W. Moore, John T. Starr, Z. G. Osborn, L. M. Wing.

Southern Michigan National Bank.

The Southern Michigan National Bank of Coldwater has a history of nearly thirty-five years of continuous and successful activity. A bank, when prosperous, comes to be regarded by the people generally as an "institution" and the personal character behind it seldom comes to light. None the less the strength of the institution depends on the directors and officers who control its affairs, and the confidence of the people in the bank is only another way of stating the reliability of the men responsible for its financial management. Many well known men of Branch county have been identified with the Southern Michigan National Bank, and it is also noteworthy that some of the original stockholders and officials are still connected with the active control.

The names of the original stockholders are: Caleb D. Randall, Julius S. Barber, Cyrus G. Luce, Henry Safford, Lester E. Rose, Edwin R. Clarke, John O. Pelton, David C. Powers, Luther F. Hale, Charles A. Spaulding, Robert F. Mockridge, Simon B. Kitchel, Alonzo Waterman, Thomas W. Dickinson, Hibbard F. Jones, Olivia Safford, Isaac Mains, Emeline Barber, Thomas Smith, Noah P. Loveridge, Robert Reade, Daniel E. Dyer, D. C. Smith, J. Sterling Smith, Lois Smith, Mary Rodman, Orlando Wilder.

The first board of directors were: Henry Safford, E. R. Clarke, J. S. Barber, C. D. Randall, L. F. Hale, D. C. Powers, C. G. Luce. The present directors are L. E. Rose, J. S. Barber, E. G. Luce, R. E. Clarke, M. D. Campbell, A. S. Upson.

The first executive officers are: C. D. Randall, president; C. G. Luce,

vice-president: Lester E. Rose, cashier; A. Sidney Upson, teller and bookkeeper. On the resignation of Mr. Randall, Mr. Rose became president, and the recent death of C. G. Luce necessitated the only other change that has occurred since the bank began business. The officers at present are: L. E. Rose, president; J. S. Barber, vice-president; A. S. Upson, cashier.

In February, 1872, the Southern Michigan National Bank was opened for business in the Southern Michigan Hotel block, but since the fall of the same year has been located in the building erected by the banking association at the southeast corner of Chicago and Monroe streets. The capital stock is $165,000, and the surplus and undivided profits are $145,000.

The Branch County Savings Bank.

The Branch County Savings Bank at Coldwater was organized December 9, 1890, with the following officers: President, B. S. Spofford; first vice-president, F. L. Burdick; second vice-president, B. R. Moore; cashier, C. T. Gilbert; directors, B. S. Spofford, B. R. Moore, N. A. Reynolds, C. T. Gilbert, W. S. VanBlarcum, H. J. Woodward, F. L. Burdick, G. W. VanAken, R. G. Chandler. The bank proved a success from its inception, its savings feature being particularly attractive to the small depositor—an important branch of the banking business too often overlooked by many banks. A general banking business is conducted in all of its branches and the outside connections of the Branch County Savings Bank are extensive. The present officers of the bank are B. S. Spofford, president; F. L. Burdick, vice-president; M. W. Wimer, cashier. The directors are B. S. Spofford, A. Milnes, J. W. McCausey, F. L. Burdick, S. H. Clizbe, N. Baldwin, G. W. VanAken, N. A. Reynolds, Harry P. Woodward. The capital and surplus are $65,000.

Union City National Bank.

The building of the railroad through Union City was, as told on other pages, a powerful impetus to business and growth of all kinds. Further proof of the statement is found in the fact that the village's oldest bank was established about that time. The Union City National Bank was organized under a charter, May 17, 1871, with the following officers: President, David R. Cooley; vice-president, Dr. Wm. P. Hurd; cashier, Ira W. Nash; directors, S. P. Williams, I. W. Clark, Ezra Bostwick, J. B. Tucker, H. H. Hitchcock. Mr. Cooley was president for three years when he was succeeded by Dr. W. P. Hurd, who filled the position in a satisfactory manner until his death in 1881. Mr. Ezra Bostwick succeeded to the office and was president until his death in 1895. Mr. J. W. McCausey, who had been cashier of the institution since 1883, was then elected president, a position which he still fills. The bank is situated in commodious quarters of its own at the corner of Ellen street and Broadway, where steel vaults and safes of modern construction afford safety to the funds of the institution. A general banking business is done, and that the bank possesses fully the confidence of the public is evidenced by the large volume of business transacted. The

present officers are as follows: President, J. W. McCausey; vice-president, Isaac Tower; cashier, J. S. Nesbitt; teller, L. F. Holcomb; directors, J. W. McCausey, Isaac Tower, Mrs. C. E. Hurd, M. F. Buell, Henry Seymour, Warren Baker, W. H. Tower.

Farmers National Bank of Union City.

The Farmers National Bank was incorporated October 4, 1877, with the following officers: Thomas B. Buell, president; H. F. Ewers, vice-president; H. T. Carpenter, cashier; T. B. Buell, R. F. Watkins, Rufus Osborn, H. F. Ewers, H. T. Carpenter, D. R. Cooley, H. L. Bisbee, directors. Thomas B. Buell continued as president until his death in 1900, when he was succeeded by his son D. D. Buell. Ever since its organization the bank has been under the management of its cashier, H. T. Carpenter, whose long record in the same position is not excelled in the history of Branch county banking. The present officers are: D. D. Buell, president; J. P. Fox, vice-president; H. T. Carpenter, cashier. According to one of its latest statements, the Farmers National has a capital stock of $50,000, surplus and undivided profits of nearly $18,000, and deposits of nearly $200,000.

First National Bank of Quincy.

In April, 1877, the banking house of Lee and Hannan was established in Quincy. Four years later, in 1881, Mr. Charles R. Hannan organized the First National Bank of Quincy, which now, at the close of its twenty-fifth year, is the oldest bank of Quincy and one of the most successful in the county. Its management has been solid and conservative throughout, and it has the record of never having paid a cent of interest on deposits. Its deposits in April, 1906, were nearly one hundred thousand dollars.

Associated with Mr. Hannan in the establishment of this bank were the first president, B. F. Wheat; the vice-president, John H. Jones, while Mr. Hannan took the post of cashier. One instance of the solidity of the bank is to be found in the length of service of the men now officers. Mr. C. H. Winchester, the president, has been with the bank about fifteen years, following Mr. Wheat; the vice-president, E. B. Church, has a record of twenty years with the institution, while Mr. C. L. Truesdell, the cashier, has stood regularly at his window for twenty-three years.

Quincy State Bank.

The Quincy State Bank was incorporated January 20, 1899. With the exception of the office of vice-president, which for the first three years was held by H. W. Whitmore, the principal officers and the directors have remained the same to the present time. They are: F. A. Roethlisberger, president; N. H. Andrus, vice-president; M. S. Segur, cashier; directors, S. M. Golden, N. H. Andrus, M. S. Segur, Harvey Chase, F. A. Roethlisberger. Charles Harphan was assistant cashier two years, L. T. Etheridge for one year, and Pearl Power now holds that position.

Sherwood.

The Farmers' and Merchants' Bank at Sherwood was established in 1883. It is capitalized at $10,000. The president is Henry Seymour and the cashier George H. Seymour, who are the owners of the institution. Sketches of these business men will be found elsewhere in the volume.

Bronson Banks.

The L. Rudd & Son private banking business was begun in 1883. Laurendus Rudd, the founder, who was born in New York in 1815, and died in Bronson, December 27, 1884, came to Bronson in 1854 and was foremost in business affairs until his death. His was the first banking house in the village. The firm are now the only bankers in the county who are members of the American Banking Association. F. M. Rudd, the son, now carries on the principal interests in succession to his father and has also enlarged the scope of his business efforts.

The Exchange Bank, also a private bank, was established in 1897, the original firm name being Coward & Monroe Brothers. In 1902 Wallace Monroe sold his interest, and the firm became Coward & Monroe. Richard Coward and William Monroe are now the proprietors of this bank, which has a capital of $50,000 and large deposits and is in a substantial condition. Mr. Coward, who is of English birth, has lived in Branch county since 1865.

Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company.

One of the oldest and best known financial institutions of Branch county is the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of Branch County, which has had a continuous and successful existence since the date of its founding, January 21, 1863. The mutual plan has always been strictly adhered to, and the insurance reports issued from the state have always given the company favorable mention, which is substantiated in the sworn statements of business. The founders of the company are named in the first official list, namely: Philo Porter, president; John S. Strong, secretary; and Asahel Brown, Stuart Davis, Moses V. Calkins, George W. VanAken, E. W. Phettiplace, directors.

The company has written policies for more than forty years. Its importance as an individual financial institution is shown in the erection, during the year of this writing, 1906, of a brick building on Division street opposite the court house, which will be devoted to business offices for the company.

CHAPTER XVIII.

RAILROADS, TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION.

The laying out of the Chicago Road and the operation of the line of stages from Detroit to Chicago had a tremendous importance in the development of southern Michigan. But the time came when the last coach rumbled along this thoroughfare, and the stage-coach era passed on beyond the Mississippi river. Following it, as one phase of progress follows another, came the railroad period. The very fact that the transition from one to the other was a gradual process, covering some years, partly obscured the significance of the event even to its actual beholders, while to people who have never lived out of hearing of the locomotive whistle, imagination affords a dim idea of the epoch when the stage coach and the Conestoga wagon were the only means of transportation.

Railroad building was extended westward in the wake of the great emigration movement of the thirties and forties. Although the first railroad in the United States was not built until the decade of the twenties, each year thereafter increased the railroad mileage by hundreds and then by thousands of miles. Branch county was fortunate in being on the route of westward extension which finally bound the east and the west by trunk lines, and in 1850 was traversed by one of these lines and twenty years later by a second.

It was not until 1837 that the Michigan pioneer could make any part of his journey in this state by rail. The Erie and Kalamazoo Railroad, the oldest of the original companies which are now embraced under the name of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern, was incorporated in 1833, was built between Toledo and Adrian, a distance of thirty-three miles, and opened for traffic in 1837. The motive power was furnished by horses until a locomotive could be obtained. This road had many difficulties, and its owners finally, in August, 1849, leased it to the Michigan Southern.

In 1837 the then new state of Michigan launched out in a grand scheme of internal improvements, providing for a loan of five million dollars (an enormous sum at that time) for the improvement of rivers, construction of canals, and for three railroads—a Southern, a Central and a Northern Railroad. The Southern Railroad, it should be noticed, was planned to start at Monroe, on Lake Erie, traverse the southern tier of counties, and terminate at St. Joseph on Lake Michigan. The Central was to cross the state and terminate on Lake Michigan at a point further north. At the time these roads were planned, Chicago was little more than a trading post, but long before either of them was completed it became obvious that the value of each

road depended on having its western terminus in Chicago. The Central, after the state relinquished its control, was constructed rapidly and across the prescribed route of the Southern through New Buffalo and along the southern shore of Lake Michigan, its arrival in Chicago anticipating that of the Southern by several months.

In the meantime the state was proceeding with the construction of the Southern Railroad also. The road was opened from Monroe to Petersburg, eighteen miles, in 1839, to Adrian in 1840, to Hudson in 1843, and to Hillsdale in 1843, in all a distance of 66 miles. That was all of the Southern Railroad built by the state. Michigan's experience in the construction of great internal improvements was unfortunate, and in less than ten years it seemed the part of wisdom to turn over such enterprises to private capital. In 1846, accordingly, the state sold its Southern road to a company for five hundred thousand dollars, to be paid in ten equal annual installments.

This was the status of the railroad question at the time when we may begin to view it from the standpoint of the people of Branch county. Despite the constant agitation on the part of the citizens, the mass meetings, the memorials to the legislature, the western terminus of the railroad remained at Hillsdale for nearly seven years. The inhabitant of Coldwater who wished to go to Detroit must make the first twenty-two miles of the journey by stage, and the trip was not at all tempting to one bent on a holiday excursion. The railroad question was vital. Hardly an issue of the Coldwater Sentinel during the late forties did not contain an editorial of protest against the delay. The progress of negotiations was followed in great detail, and at a time when newspapers gave scant attention to matters of local interest this fact is significant of the importance that marked the building of the railroad in contrast with all other affairs.

The Telegraph.

The villages of Branch county were placed in communication with the world by means of the telegraph a year before the railroad came. In 1845 the first commercial use was made of the telegraph. Four years later its wire threads were being carried across the continent, enabling the people of Coldwater to know what had occurred in New York two hours before. "On Tuesday, Nov. 6, 1849, the office of the Southern Michigan Telegraph line in this village was put in operation." But while marking this as an important day in the history of Coldwater, the editor of the Sentinel in the same issue sagely comments that, despite material inventions and improvements, the disposition of men remains about the same. "We have witnessed," he says, "the anxiety of our citizens when the lumbering stage coach was the only medium by which news was conveyed. We saw no less anxiety when the stage coach gave place, in part, to the locomotive as it rolled along its iron track. An increase of speed had increased their expectations. And now, when they can talk by lightning, send their communications and receive answers in less than no time, they are more dissatisfied than ever. There was more anxiety depicted on the countenances of the

crowd in waiting Tuesday evening and Wednesday, while the election returns were coming in, than we ever saw manifested by a postoffice full of politicians when they had waited patiently a week or ten days without any intelligence. Lightning was too slow, and we were convinced that the more men have, the more they want."

The First Railroad.

But now the attention of the press and the people became concentrated on the railroad situation. The rivalry between the Michigan Southern and the Michigan Central was by this time intense, and each company was using all the means in its power to prevent the other from reaching Chicago. As already mentioned, the Michigan Central had been diverted southward from its original course. The Southern people were fighting in the legislature for the privilege likewise of diverging from the straight course across the southern tier of counties and building a large part of their line across northern Indiana. The interest in this matter was not confined to the legislative halls and railroad circles. In March, 1850, a mass meeting of citizens was held in the Branch county court house, long series of preambles and resolutions were adopted, of which the main tenor was a protest against the monopoly of the Michigan Central and an emphasizing of the uselessness of constructing the Michigan Southern to a terminus within the state of Michigan instead of to Chicago.

The agitation here and elsewhere bore fruit. Goaded to action by an aroused constituency, the legislature in the closing days of its session of 1849-50 passed a bill, two important features of which were that the Southern road should be extended from Hillsdale to Coldwater by the fall of 1851, and requiring the road to strike the St. Joseph river before it should be diverted from the state. The line was to be equipped with a heavy T-rail instead of the strap rail, "so that trains may whiz along at thirty miles an hour," to quote again from the Sentinel.

The railroad now became an immediate and definite prospect for Branch county. By the latter part of October, 1850, trains were running to Jonesville, with the grading between Coldwater and Jonesville nearly ready for the track. On December 6, 1850, the eager readers of the Sentinel saw this item: "We saw the locomotive come snorting through Quincy on Monday last, with a load of iron; a somewhat unusual sight, but with all the noise and confusion, an agreeable one."

The next issue contained the climax of the story. "What our citizens have looked eagerly for during the last twelve years is at last accomplished, and the Michigan Southern is finally completed to Coldwater. For the first time, on Tuesday (December 10, 1850), the iron horse made his appearance in this village. A freight train arrived at noon and commenced taking on a load of flour at the depot. About 4:15 a large number of our expectant citizens witnessed the arrival of a passenger train from the east." That was a red letter day in the history of Coldwater. In the evening a ball was held at the old Franklin House in honor of the event, and on the following

Friday, when a train load of visitors from Adrian, Toledo and other points along the line came to the Coldwater terminus, there was a second celebration and rejoicing, all the homes in the village were open to entertain the strangers, and there was another dance in the evening. These social gratulations, however, were mere incidental manifestations of the introduction of an epoch which closed the pioneer era of Branch county.

Construction work did not stop at Coldwater. By the middle of February, 1851, track had been laid to the county line, thus giving Bronson communication by rail, and on March 13th a train ran through to Sturgis. A year later, in March, 1852, the road reached Chicago, and the distance of two hundred and fifty miles between Toledo and Chicago was open to traffic without the use of the stage for any portion of the way.

Air Line Railroad.

The Air Line branch of the Michigan Central, which enters the county at Union City and crosses the county diagonally out through Sherwood township, was projected almost entirely by local capital and enterprise, the corporate name being the Michigan Air Line Railroad Company. The people of the counties of Cass, St. Joseph, Calhoun, Branch and Jackson were the ones most vitally interested. In the latter part of the sixties the townships of Union and Sherwood were thoroughly canvassed for contributions to the enterprise, the promoters sending a man of address and eloquence all over this section to hold meetings and to use personal suasion in the interest of the project. The following item from the first copy of the Union City Independent, in October, 1867, indicates how local interest and financial support were worked up for this railroad.

"We understand that Dr. H. F. Ewers and E. Perry, Esq., are canvassing the townships of Union and Sherwood for stock subscriptions and right of way for the railroad, and that thus far they have met with good success. Nearly or quite enough stock has been taken east of Jackson to prepare the road-bed for the iron, and we understand that on that portion of the route, the contracts are to be let this fall."

Jackson county subscribed nearly two hundred thousand dollars to the undertaking, and the principal officers of the original organization were citizens of Jackson. The line was opened to travel from Jackson to Homer in the summer of 1870, to Three Rivers in the autumn of the same year, and was completed to Niles in February, 1871. Almost coincident with the completion of the road it was leased to the Michigan Central Railroad Company, and soon became the property of that company. The Air Line has been of special value in upbuilding Union City and was the foundation of the village of Sherwood.

Other Railroads.

The Fort Wayne, Jackson and Saginaw Railroad, which crosses the southeast corner of California township, was completed and opened for traffic from Jackson to Angola, Indiana, in January, 1870, about the same

time the Michigan Air Line was constructed across the northwest corner of the county.

The futility of forecast even in such a substantial matter as railroad building is well illustrated in the Branch County Atlas published in 1872. With this as his only guide we might conceive of a traveler planning to take train at California postoffice and riding thence north through Coldwater and Girard and leaving the county about the center of the north boundary. For this is the designated route of the Mansfield, Coldwater and Lake Michigan Railroad, over which, unfortunately, no train of cars ever ran through Branch county. None the less, the map makers were not open to censure on that account, for they merely indicated the line which it was confidently believed at the time would soon be in operation, and which was even graded and ready in some portions for the laying of the iron. And now, as one unacquainted with this chapter of Branch county history rides over the county, he would be puzzled in places to account for the grass-grown cuts and ridges which are all that remain of the ambitious attempt.

The Mansfield, Coldwater and Lake Michigan Railroad was largely a Coldwater project. The report of the state railroad commission for December, 1872, gave among the list of officers of the corporation the names of H. C. Lewis as vice president (who soon after became president), David B. Dennis, treasurer; Justin Lawyer, assistant secretary, and F. V. Smith, register of transfers, all of Coldwater, and besides these the late Gen. J. G. Parkhurst was a director. It was planned to build this road from Mansfield, Ohio, to Allegan, Michigan. In 1875 eleven and a half miles were in operation from Allegan to Monteith, and the official railroad map of 1875 shows it as a stump line projecting east of Monteith a few miles and under lease for operation purposes by the Grand Rapids and Indiana. August 28, 1877, the road was sold under foreclosure of mortgage, the name then changing to the Allegan and Southeastern R. R. Co. Its subsequent history is not pertinent to present consideration.

Contemporaneous in origin and perhaps connected in other ways with the above enterprise, was the Marshall and Coldwater Railroad. This road was projected to run from Coldwater to Elm Hall in Gratiot county, and a map of the time indicates its line as parallel to the Mansfield road as far as Girard village, whence it goes directly north towards Marshall. "That part of the line from Coldwater to the Peninsular Railroad, a distance of forty miles, was, January 1, 1873, substantially graded, bridged and tied." Such was the railroad commissioner's report, but no track was ever laid, and the name and record of the corporation disappear from the reports after 1873. Nearly all the officials named were citizens of Marshall.

It is within the province of this history to record the status of electric lines in the county. About three years ago the Toledo and Michigan Electric Railroad was "in course of construction" through the county, the designated termini being Toledo and Elkhart. Along the highway between Coldwater and Quincy for nearly the entire distance can now be seen the

grade that was made for this road. But so far this construction is for nothing, although it is expected that a new corporation will utilize the grade.

Furthermore, at the time of this writing, a company is in the field acquiring right of way and other concessions along the route of the old Coldwater and Mansfield route from Coldwater to Battle Creek, with the intention of constructing an electric line that will cross the county at right angles to the steam roads and furnish much-needed transportation between portions of the county that are now practically isolated.

It remans for a later historian to describe the improvements which these proposed electric lines will accomplish. No doubt many things that are now novel or tentative will be obsolete or thoroughly founded twenty-five years from now.

Postal Service.

One of the first improvements sought after actual home and shelter and means of subsistence were provided was a postal service, such as all the settlers had been familiar with in their former homes in the more settled regions. We have seen how the government early made provision for the establishment of a great post road from the east to the west. But the actual transportation and distribution of mail was a very uncertain matter for many years, and depended largely on the provision that each community could make for that purpose. The mail stage began running in the early thirties along the Chicago road, and the various stations along that highway were the distributing points from which mail was carried to the settlements in the remote townships. Some convenient settler's cabin was selected as the postoffice, and there the neighbors would gather to receive a chance letter or hear the reading of a newspaper brought in by the last mail. Since the establishment of a postoffice usually marked an important stage in the history of a village or hamlet, the individual postoffices of the county have received appropriate mention in connection with the account of the different localities.

Letters were a luxury in pioneer times. They were written on foolscap paper and so folded that one side was left blank, so as to form its own envelope, it being sealed with wax or a wafer. This latter custom was followed for many years, and some of these sheets folded according to the usual manner, with some of the wax of the seal still adhering to them, and with the post-mark "Mic. T." showing that they were sent during the territorial days, may be seen in some of the first miscellaneous files in the county clerk's office.

Postal advantages were centralized formerly. To get one's mail it was necessary to go where it was distributed, whether that was at the settler's cabin above mentioned or at a permanent office fitted up for the purpose, as is the case with larger places. The most striking change in postal service was effected when mail matter began to be carried to the persons addressed instead of those persons calling at a central place where the mail was kept. Mail delivery marks a great step of progress, not so much in the case of the cities, as in the country, where the system of rural free delivery has undoubt-

edly effected more for the welfare and intelligence of the rural population than any other factor of recent years.

In the history of the grange movement something has been said concerning the beginnings of rural delivery. The first routes were established from the Coldwater postoffice in 1901, and since that time the entire county has received these facilities, there being sixteen carriers over as many routes, with Coldwater city and each of the four villages as centers, with one or more routes also from Batavia and Kinderhook.

TELEPHONE.

Communication by telephone is now in such general and familiar use in the county that it is difficult to realize that this invention is modern. There is probably not a person in Branch county who does not at least know of the telephone, and in hundreds of homes and in nearly every business house will be found one of these instruments. Every road has its line of poles and strings of wire, binding together separate homes, communities, villages and distant cities. Less than thiry years have sufficied to effect this condition. Mr. A. Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, was successfully conducting experiments in the early seventies, but the first time his invention was exhibited in a practical form to the general public was at the centennial exposition at Philadelphia in 1876. A standard encyclopedia, published in 1877, in describing this invention, speaks of it as "telegraphic transmission of articulate sounds," and further goes on to state as the climax of the wonderful discovery that "we may confidently expect that Mr. Bell will give us the means of making voice and spoken words audible through the electric wire to an ear hundreds of miles distant."

Branch county began using this invention in 1882. The Coldwater Republican of September 1, 1882, states that "the labor of putting up a line has commenced. The central office will be located in the third story of the F. V. Smith & Co.'s building. About forty instruments have been ordered, and connection will also be made with Quincy and Union City." How the invention was regarded is best told in an issue of the same paper published in October, 1882. The telephones by that time were in operation, and the writer declared that "a person standing at any telephone in the city can converse with parties at the State School in an ordinary tone, and many times can distinguish the voice of the speaker. It is certainly a wonderful and useful instrument, and we hope to see our city connected this fall with Union City and Quincy."

This was the beginning of telephone communication in Branch county. The first telephones were operated by the original Bell company, but not long after the system of which they were a part was formed under the separate name of the Michigan State Telephone Company, which is now virtually a Michigan company, run by Michigan men and capital, and with long-distance connections.

The Michigan State Telephone Company now has 950 subscribers to

the Coldwater exchange; in 1889 there were 39. The headquarters of the company are in Detroit. The Quincy exchange of this company was opened about 1901, and that in Union City about fifteen years ago. In Quincy there are about 60 subscribers, and in Union City 300 subscribers, two-thirds of these being farmers. Three hundred of the Coldwater subscribers are farmers. In Sherwood is an exchange with 75 subscribers, and at East Gilead Mr. F. J. Conklin is a sub-licensee with 50 subscribers. An exchange is also to be opened in Bronson.

The Wolverine Telephone Company was the first independent telephone company in Branch county. It began operating in the county March 25, 1904. December 29, 1905, this line was consolidated with the Southern Michigan Telephone Company, whose main office is at Burr Oak, and which was formerly known as the Himebaugh line.

The Quincy Independent Telephone Company began operating May 15, 1904. Though a separate line, it works in connection with the Southern Michigan Company, and service from one to the other of these lines over the entire county is free. The establishment of these independent lines has brought about reduction of rates from the older company and both lines have been stimulated to offer better service. Besides these, there are three or four farmers' private lines in the county, the best known being the Dollarhite line, working south of Quincy, with some eighty subscribers. Mr. John Babcock, now of Quincy, was the original promoter of the independent lines east of Coldwater. In 1902-3 he was living about four miles east of Quincy. In 1903 he and eight other farmers formed a line of their own. Mr. H. W. Noble, Mr. A. L. Bowen and Mr. Samuel N. Swan were associated with him in the management. The Quincy Independent Line now has 130 subscribers in the village and 250 in the country about it.

Present Conditions.

One other aspect of communication deserves mention. The rapid progress in this department of human affairs is almost bewildering, and the events follow in such succession that at this time it is difficult to designate each one with date and results. In June, 1906, there were 107 automobiles owned by citizens of Coldwater, a remarkable number considering the size of the city and comparing favorably with the number in cities of twice the size. There are also several machines in each of the villages.

In the year of this writing the automobile measures the highest development of what may be termed "individual conveyance," that is, means of transportation apart from the organized and systematic facilities furnished by the railroad or steamship companies. Ten years ago the bicycle represented that highest development. Wagons and carriages drawn by horses, which have been most depended on throughout the period of this history, have not been superseded, but it remains a matter of interesting speculation what the subsequent decades will bring about in this matter of communication. What roads have done in directing the settlement and upbuilding of

this county has been described at length, and easy communication has been emphasized as a dominant factor of our development. But with the improvement of roadways in keeping with the progress in means of conveyance, the civilization of the next quarter century may be entirely rearranged.

CHAPTER XIX.

THE COUNTY'S NEWSPAPERS.

Something should be said concerning the general character and make-up of the early newspapers. An examination of newspaper files dated during the forties and fifties and published in various parts of the country, leads one to believe that there was little individuality in the pioneer press. A uniform method was followed in arranging and selecting matter thought to be suitable for the public's reading. Cut off the title head and the place of publication, and it would require considerable search to discover the exact locality where the paper was issued.

Of local news scarcely any is to be found in the papers of sixty years ago. For that reason the historical investigator is usually disappointed so far as large returns for his study of the files are concerned. Here and there, lodged between an account of a political campaign in another state and a continued story, may be found an item of value, like a bit of gold quartz buried in worthless drift. Of the columns of personal mention and local happenings, which are the real life of the modern newspaper, nothing can be found in the early files in Branch county, which is no exception to the rule in other counties. As a veteran Michigan editor says, the old-time publisher would delightedly seize upon a letter from Europe containing news three months old, giving it several columns on his front page, while matters of local concern would be disregarded entirely.

The most graphic illustration of these facts about the old-time newspaper is to be seen in a description of the contents of the first number of the Coldwater *Sentinel,* which was issued April 16, 1841, and which is no doubt typical in form and content of three-fourths of the local newspapers published throughout the country in that week.

The first two columns of this old *Sentinel* are filled with advertisements of medicine, of the magazine *New World,* the millwright Jeremiah Case of Bronson, an insurance company, a list of letters, and some legal notices. The third column begins with some selected poetry, and is filled out with paragraphs of wit and humor. The fourth, fifth and sixth columns, half of the front page, are devoted to foreign news, which is also continued in the first column of the second page, followed by two columns of news from the state legislature. All the column rules of the two inside pages are inverted in token of the death of President William Henry Harrison, which occurred on April 4th. An account of this fills the remaining columns of the second page. Page three is entirely filled with political news, legal notices, advertisements, with a few miscellanies intermingled. On page four

begins the story. "The Banker's Daughter," and her interesting fate is told in three and a half columns. The story, by the way, was clipped from a London paper. The rest of the page contains advertisements of "household magazines" and a certain brand of pills. In the entire sheet the only items of local interest are a few advertisements inserted by business and professional men, and a brief account of the formation of a county medical society.

Michigan Star.

The first newspaper published in Branch county was the *Michigan Star,* by the Branch County Printing Company, the first number being issued at the old county seat at Branch village in May, 1837. Charles P. West was the first and only editor and publisher, for the career of the *Star* was ended in less than a year, and it was the only paper that Branch village ever had.

Coldwater Observer.

The rivalry between Branch and Coldwater during the thirties is in no way better illustrated than in the history of this paper. The *Observer* was established to offset the advantage that accrued to Branch from having the *Star* to advertise the county seat village to the world and thus focus attention upon its location. Dr. Thomas N. Calkins and E. G. Fuller were behind the enterprise, circulated the subscription paper, and when the paper was started acted as editors and managers. How shrewdly they engineered the enterprise to the detriment of its rival is shown by the fact that they procured the foreman of the *Star* to act as publisher of the *Observer.* The first number was issued July 18, 1837, and its appearance was an occasion of rejoicing among the people of Coldwater. Dr. Calkins was soon called to a higher place in journalism, becoming one of the editors of the Detroit *Free Press.* Another physician, Dr. Bement, succeeded him, some time in 1838, and changed the paper to the *Branch County News.* In the meantime the old *Michigan Star* had discontinued, and the necessity for a paper in Coldwater was no longer so great. The publication was soon suspended, therefore.

The material remained, however, and two young men named Jocelyn and Horton originated and gave a brief existence to the *Branch County Democrat.*

Coldwater Sentinel.

April 16, 1841, Mr. Albert Chandler, so long and prominently identified with the newspaper and business interests of Branch county, published the first number of the Coldwater *Sentinel,* announcing that he had bought the Horton printing equipment, so that in a sense the *Sentinel* was a continuation of the first Coldwater paper.

The *Sentinel* had an existence of nearly twenty years, and its bound volumes, which are preserved practically complete until 1854, contain the most exact and detailed data on Branch county history of that period that can be found anywhere. Various firm names appeared as publishers through

this time. Chandler and Haynes (John T.) were publishers in 1844. In 1846 it became Chandler and Stillman, the latter being Dr. H. B. Stillman, and in September of the same year the firm was Chandler and Waterman (David). In 1849 Elihu B. Pond became editor and proprietor. He was one of the most forceful of early Branch county editors, and made his paper a practical and decided influence. He began what he called the "new series" of the *Sentinel,* the issue of December 7, 1849, being numbered as Volume I, No. 1. In June, 1854, S. W. Driggs and H. C. Gilbert became proprietors and conducted the *Sentinel* two years. Barrett and Reynolds conducted it two years longer, from the fall of 1856, and it then passed into the possession of Judge J. H. Gray, who soon sold the plant and it was removed to Port Huron, where it was used to print the Port Huron *Press.* The *Sentinel* was the upholder of Democratic principles on all occasions.

Branch County Journal.

In the meantime Coldwater had another paper. B. F. Thompson established and issued the first number of the *Branch County Journal* on November 11, 1851. This was the first Whig paper in the county. In June, 1852, the proprietors became C. A. and B. F. Thompson, the former being the father of B. F. March 8, 1853, E. J. Hard and H. B. Robinson became proprietors, two years later Barnes and Way, and it then passed through the hands of Bates Dewey and Clinton B. Fisk to E. B. Dewey, who moved the plant to Elkhart about 1856.

The Branch County Republican.

This paper, the first in Branch county to become the outspoken exponent of Republican party principles, was established at Coldwater in the fall of 1857, by Messrs. Eddy and Gray. Judge J. H. Gray has already been mentioned in connection with the concluding history of the *Sentinel.* About a year and a half after its establishment the *Republican* became the sole property of Judge Gray, who conducted it with his son Horace J. Gray, until 1861.

In the latter year F. B. Way bought the *Republican* and changed the name to the *Branch County Gazette,* although it was conducted loyally to the Republican party and to the Union cause during the succeeding Civil war. During this period two well known men in county politics were editors for a time, J. H. McGowan and C. P. Benton. The next event in the history of the *Gazette* brings us to the consideration of

The Republican.

August 23, 1866, Major D. J. Easton, later the founder of the Union City *Register,* published the first number of the *Republican* at Coldwater. In the following December Dr. P. P. Nichols, another well known newspaper man of the county, purchased an interest and became one of the editors of the *Republican.* Easton and Nichols sold out after a year to W. J. and

O. A. Bowen. The *Republican* was growing as the leading Republican paper of the county, and in 1868 the firm bought its only rival for the patronage of that party, the *Gazette,* the history of which paper ends at that time. W. J. Bowen continued as one of the proprietors of the *Republican* for several years, and the firm at one time was Bowen, Rose and Skeels, the latter being F. L. Skeels, the Coldwater lawyer.

In 1873 A. J. Aldrich and Company bought the *Republican.* Mr. A. J. Aldrich, who was born in Girard township and whose grandfather built the first mill on the site of Hodunk, is yet living in Coldwater. He was interested in the *Republican* as editor or proprietor until 1893. The enterprise of the new firm was manifested in the issue, August 3, 1875, of the first number of the "*Semi-Weekly Republican,*" the first newspaper in Branch county to break away from the once-a-week issue. The paper was enlarged on December 3, 1875. The *Republican* continued as the leading Republican newspaper for many years, and for many reasons is the best known of former Coldwater papers. It continued to hold a place in the field of active and enterprising journalism until 1897, when it was consolidated with the *Courier,* and its history is practically a part of the following account of the *Courier.*

The Courier.

The history of the Coldwater *Courier* dates from November 4, 1882, when the first number, a large size folio, was issued with the names of W. G. Moore and P. P. Nichols. Mr. Moore, who is still a resident of Coldwater, was connected with this paper as city editor for about twenty years, until he was succeeded by Mr. H. F. Bailey, the present city editor. In December, 1885, the *Courier* became an eight-page paper, and at various times the size of the page was changed to conform to the needs of the publishers.

The next change of proprietorship to be noted from an examination of the files occurred in November, 1888, when J. N. Foster became the associate of Mr. Moore, the firm being known as Foster and Moore. September 28, 1889, they announced the sale of the *Courier* to C. H. Newell and C. W. Owen. Mr. Newell had been connected with the Wabash, Indiana, *Plain Dealer,* and Mr. Owen came from Bronson, where he had been editor and publisher of the *Herald.* This partnership continued until September 27, 1890, when Mr. Newell went to other fields, and Mr. Owen then conducted the paper alone until April 2, 1892, when we again find over the editorial column the names Newell and Owen. A little more than a year, and on April 8, 1893, the *Courier* was published by Mr. Owen and Major G. H. Turner. September 1, 1894, Mr. Newell took the place of Mr. Owen, and for more than six years these gentlemen remained in partnership. Since February 22, 1901, Mr. C. H. Newell has been sole proprietor.

March 23, 1897, a consolidation was effected of two of Branch county's well known journals. On that date Newell and Turner bought the Coldwater *Republican,* and three days later the issue appears with the title "*The Courier and Republican.*" Although generally known as simply the *Courier,*

this combined title remained until April 30, 1906, when the second part of the heading was dropped.

Beginning with the issue of November 24, 1899, the *Courier* and *Republican* was enlarged to twelve pages a week instead of ten, and was issued in two parts—four pages on Tuesday and eight on Friday. On July 7, 1902, the *Courier* became a daily paper, and was so continued through the political campaign of that year until December 1st, when the number of weekly issues was reduced to three, or, to quote its own statement, it is published "every other day."

The Reporter.

The *Daily Reporter* of Coldwater was founded as the result of a spontaneous interest in journalism combined with the means to gratify that interest without the large outlay for plant and equipment needed by the modern newspaper. The late Mr. S. B. Kitchel had for several years before the establishment of the *Reporter* conducted a considerable plant to supply the printing required for a very extensive system of advertising. A regular force was employed in this department, and the machinery and type assortment were quite equal to the publishing of a periodical paper.

It was during the early winter of 1895-96 when, to avoid a shut-down of the printing plant during the usually dull period in that department, it was deemed expedient to start a daily paper. Accordingly on the 16th of December, 1895, the first number of the *Daily Reporter* appeared, with S. B. Kitchel as publisher. At the time there was no intention to continue the enterprise beyond the holiday season, when the business printing would again make full demands on the establishment. But the *Daily Reporter* seemed to fill an important place in the city and county. The people were pleased with the new journal, and the publisher was satisfied with his new departure in business. So the *Reporter* continued to be issued daily, and has maintained an uninterrupted record in this respect to the present time. As a financial investment the *Reporter* was not a dividend-maker for several years. In fact Mr. Kitchel is reported to have said, "I do not want any money out of the *Reporter*. Keep the balance just enough on the right side to be sure not to lose money, and give the people all the news they will pay for." The personal satisfaction he got in maintaining a daily paper in Coldwater was more important to its publisher than financial returns.

After the *Daily Reporter* had been in existence about a year a weekly issue was established, and then on March 15, 1898, the *Semi-Weekly Reporter* began its first volume. Mr. S. B. Kitchel continued in active control of the paper until his death in July, 1905, since which time his son Horace has been publisher.

The mechanical equipment of the *Reporter* office is not excelled in southern Michigan west of Detroit. To guard against delays the important machinery has been duplicated, so that there are two engines, dynamos, two folding machines, three job presses, a large cylinder press, and recently there has been installed a Cox Duplex newspaper press with a capacity equal to

all the demand that many years of increase may make. All the regular newspaper composition is done by linotype, there being two of these machines in the office. The foreman of the press room is Harry W. Barber, who has been connected with this department in various capacities for ten years.

Of the city editors of the *Reporter* there should be named Charles Segur, until recently with the Hudson *Gazette;* A. J. Aldrich, now retired; Willis Bailey, now in the job printing business in Coldwater; Harry Bailey, now city editor of the *Courier;* James J. Hudson, now with the Jackson *Citizen,* and A. Riley Crittenden.

Of the general character of the *Reporter* as a newspaper and in its relations to the community, it may be stated that it has been conducted independently as to political and general affairs. It should also be said that its columns have always been open to the individual citizen, and contributions to its pages have come from a large number of local writers covering a wide variety of topics.

The Sun and Star.

The Coldwater *Sun* is one of the papers of the county with a continuous existence of a quarter of a century. It was established in 1881, its first publisher being Mr. C. J. Thorp, still a resident of Coldwater. After Mr. Thorp the principal management of the *Sun* passed into the hands of Mr. W. C. Bailey.

September 24, 1891, the Sun Publishing Co., was organized and incorporated, with a capital stock of five thousand dollars, all paid in. The original stockholders were well known men of Branch county, the articles of incorporation being signed by Gen. J. G. Parkhurst, Judge J. B. Shipman, Rev. Henry Hughes, C. E. Barlow, A. E. Blackman, Gilbert Hoopengarner, C. McKay, of Quincy; W. B. Downer, H. D. Pessell, of Quincy. The first directors of the company were H. D. Pessell, president; C. E. Barlow, vice president; J. G. Parkhurst, secretary and treasurer. Mr. A. E. Blackman was the principal stockholder, and two days after the organization of the company the plant was leased to A. E. Blackman and Son, who published the paper. In June, 1892, H. C. Blackman, the son, and now of the Hillsdale *Democrat,* succeeded to the management of the paper. The next change occurred June 14, 1892, when C. A. White became owner of most of the stock and took the lease from Mr. Blackman. The next lessee of the plant and publisher was Mr. H. A. Bates, who conducted the *Sun* from April 26, 1894, until June 15, 1903.

On the latter date Mr. J. S. Evans came into control of the stock. The Sun Publishing Company is still a corporation, but Mr. Evans is virtual owner and has entire control of the management and policy of the paper. The present directors of the company are J. S. Evans, president; Mrs. Carrie E. Eigenherr, vice president; Nellie F. Evans, treasurer, and Robert G. Evans, secretary.

On June 15, 1892, a number of Branch county citizens associated themselves under articles of incorporation as the Star Publishing Company. The

authorized capital was five thousand dollars, but only about a fourth of the stock was issued. The incorporators comprised a long list of well known names in Coldwater and vicinity, and the first directors were D. D. Pretty, president; DeWitt C. Shaw, Rev. E. O. Smith, E. E. Bostwick, of Union City, and Lancaster Coffman. These men founded the Coldwater *Star* as a Prohibition newspaper. It has since remained the official organ of that movement in Branch county, opposing the liquor business either through the formation of public opinion or through political means or in whatever way the fight is carried on.

Mr. W. C. Bailey was employed as the manager and editor of the *Star,* at first on a salary basis, and later took the entire business management. Mr. J. S. Evans was one of the original stockholders of the enterprise, had acted as legal adviser of the company, and on July 12, 1899, he took the management of the paper. Mr. Evans has since published the *Star,* and after acquiring control of the *Sun,* as above mentioned, he continued both papers as independent publications until December, 1905, when he joined the two papers into the nature of a semi-weekly, issuing the *Star* on Monday and the *Sun* on Thursday.

Other Coldwater Papers.

Several other newspapers have had a more or less brief and influential career in Coldwater. After the passing of the old *Sentinel,* the next Democratic organ in the county was the *Democratic Union,* published from 1859 to 1861 by J. L. Hackstaff. In 1864 the Coldwater *Union Sentinel,* Democratic but loyal to the Union, was established by F. V. Smith and W. G. Moore, they purchasing the plant of the ephemeral *Southern Michigan News,* which had been published for a short time in 1863 by T. G. Turner. Smith and Moore continued the publication of the *Sentinel* until 1870, and Gibson brothers were the publishers until the plant was burned and the paper suspended.

In 1872 the old Coldwater *Reporter* was started, as an independent paper, by the late J. S. Conover. It passed through several proprietorships, Mr. C. J. Thorpe, now of Coldwater, having been connected with it from 1874 to 1876.

The Coldwater *Weekly Press* was established in October, 1877, by B. L. Kingston and J. L. Dennis, and soon after was purchased by D. D. Waggot. This was the first paper to attempt a daily issue, which continued from January 1, to March 15, 1878, when the usual custom was resumed.

Quincy Herald.

The Quincy *Herald* was first issued November 8, 1878. It was published by the well known soldier and Quincy citizen, C. V. R. Pond, until June, 1884, at which time it passed to Mr. F. E. Kittredge, and on April 7, 1888, to Robert J. Stephens. Mr. Stephens conducted it little more than two years, selling to J. C. Joiner on August 22, 1890. Mr. C. W. Owen,

the present editor and publisher, bought the *Herald* of Mr. Joiner, October 1, 1894.

The *Herald* has long been issued as a six-column quarto, has been issued continuously, and is a Quincy paper, devoted to the welfare and interests of that village. Complete files of the *Herald* are preserved in the office, although not bound.

Quincy News.

The Quincy *News* was established in 1889, as a weekly. Mr. C. H. Young, the present editor and manager, has been directing head of the paper since its establishment, and he was its founder. In the early part of 1899 the *News* was improved by being made a twice-a-week newspaper, and its eighth volume as such is now being issued. At first it was published as a six-column quarto, but is now a large seven-column folio. The News Publishing Company is the name of the business corporation publishing the *News*, but as already said, Mr. Young has always been the leading spirit in the management. No important changes other than those named have occurred to lengthen a historical account of the *News*. As its history is brief, so its career has been successful.

Quincy Times.

The above are the newspapers still in existence in Quincy. The first paper of that village, however, was the Quincy *Times*, which was established September 11, 1868, by R. W. Lockhart. The "Times Company" soon purchased it, Ebenezer Mudge becoming the editor, and his business associates being S. Mowrey and L. L. Briggs. Mr. A. C. Culver purchased the *Times* March 25, 1876. The *Times* was conducted until some time in the eighties, when it yielded the field to its competitor.

The predecessor of the Quincy *Herald* was the "*Greenbacker*," which was established in May, 1878, by L. E. Jacobs. Its existence terminated in October, and shortly after Mr. Pond obtained the material and began the publication of the *Herald*.

The *Literary Reporter* was a monthly magazine, established in December, 1872, whose publisher was Mr. C. W. Bennett, now of Coldwater.

Bronson Herald.

The first paper published outside of Coldwater, except the *Michigan Star* at Branch, was the Bronson *Herald*, which was established in the fall of 1865 by T. Babcock and Company. It suspended publication in 1871 and the proprietors moved the plant to Nebraska.

Bronson Journal.

The Bronson *Journal* was founded in 1881 by Daniel D. Waggot. In August, 1885, the well known Branch county newspaper man, C. W. Owen, purchased the *Journal* of D. D. Waggot. In February, 1886, Mr. Owen consolidated his paper with the Bronson *Independent*, which had been estab-

lished in 1884 by W. H. Wieand and N. Byron Ruggles, and the paper was conducted as the *Independent-Journal* for a few months by the firm of Owen and Ruggles. In September, 1886, Mr. Owen bought his partner's interest, changing the name to the Bronson *Journal.* As such it has since been conducted. Mr. Owen sold the *Journal* in 1889 to Lon E. Draper. In 1894 Mr. Allan D. Shaffmaster, the present editor and proprietor, purchased the paper of Mr. Draper.

Sherwood.

The first newspaper established in the village of Sherwood was the Sherwood *News.* Its career began in 1884 under the direction of A. C. Culver, although previous to this time Maj. D. J. Easton had issued a Sherwood edition of the Union City *Register.* Mr. Culver's *News* continued for two years, and was succeeded by the Sherwood *Press,* published by Randall & Robinson. The *Press* was conducted until 1895. Mr. E. S. Easton established the Sherwood *Register* in 1896 and it is still flourishing. It is a four-column, eight-page paper, with illustrated supplement each week, and faithfully advances Sherwood's interests.

Union City Newspapers.

The history of newspapers in Union City is furnished by Mr. T. F. Robinson, who himself has been connected with the newspaper interests of that village for more than twenty years.

The first newspaper published in Union City was the Union City *Independent,* it making its appearance in six-column folio form, October 5, 1867. It was published weekly by A. H. Pattee, but was suspended in 1868.

The Union City *Independent* was followed by the Union City *Register,* which first made its appearance as a weekly publication in 1869, the publishers being Major D. J. Easton and Jerome K. Bowen. Major Easton soon became the sole proprietor, and he continued as such until the time of his death, August 27, 1901. Major Easton was for many years a leading spirit in the advancement of the material interests of the town. In his position as publisher of the sole paper here for an extended period, he had opportunities for doing good work in these lines, and these opportunities he did not neglect. He was also a capable city official for years, and he was instrumental in securing for the place many of the modern improvements we now enjoy. After his death the newspaper was continued for several months by his son, Glenn S. Easton, until the sale of the property to F. A. Bement, May 1, 1902.

Randall and Robinson established the Union City *Local* here in August, 1885. In conjunction with this paper they also published the Sherwood *Press,* the Tekonsha *News* and the Burlington *Echo.* A large business was done until the plant was destroyed by fire in 1894, and then the subscription list was sold to the Union City *Register.*

May 1, 1896, Tom F. Robinson commenced the publication of *Robinson's Weekly,* and in 1899 Will L. Robinson was taken into the business,

the firm name being Robinson Bros. They continued the publication of the paper until it was merged with the Union City *Register* as the *Register-Weekly,* the publisher being Frank A. Bement.

A. T. McCargar and Son purchased the plant and good will of the *Register-Weekly* in November, 1902. Mr. A. T. McCargar, the senior member of the firm, came here from New York City, where he had been for some years as president and treasurer of the Baldwin & Gleason Company, engravers, lithographers and printers. Mr. Will L. Robinson, whose name now appears as publisher, has had the management of the *Register-Weekly* since November 1, 1895. May 1, 1906, it was enlarged to a seven-column quarto. On July 20, 1906, it will be enlarged to twelve pages, of seven columns each.

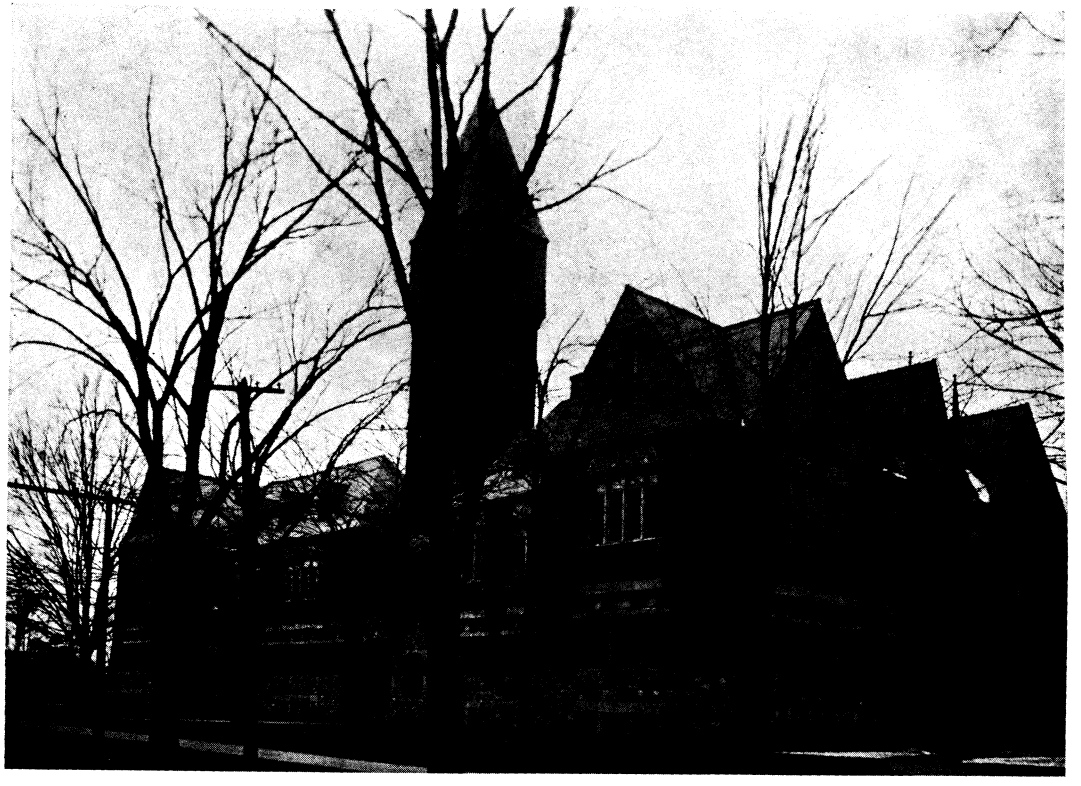
CHAPTER XX.

EDUCATION.

"Schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged." These words are found in the famous ordinance of 1787 for the government of the Northwest Territory including the region which is now Michigan. A congressional act of 1804, also with reference to what is now Michigan, reserved from sale section 16 of each township "for the support of schools." These acts of the national government were passed before the territory of Michigan was organized, and years before the surveys were made and the boundaries defined for Branch county. But the educational system which the people of this county have used has been provided by the state in so far as the state has undertaken to control the scheme and machinery of education. A brief glance at the history of education in Michigan will be a proper introduction to a more detailed account of the educational affairs of the county.

The national government took the first steps in providing for education in Michigan. The sixteenth section of each township granted for the support of schools became, through the efforts of Gen. Isaac E. Crary, Michigan's first congressman, a principal source of the State Primary School Fund, which is now a matter of pride to every citizen of the state. It was a wise provision, based on the experience of other states, that turned the proceeds from the sale of school lands into a state fund instead of giving them to the township in which the section was located. Where the latter system prevailed serious inequalities resulted from the fact that the designated section was in many cases inferior land and when sold brought little or nothing to the township treasury. And, also, the management of one large central fund was more economical and subject to less risks than if the money had been left in the many township treasuries. It is unnecessary to go into the history of the Primary School Fund further than to say that it has increased from year to year so that the per capita annual distribution of interest therefrom has more than kept pace with the increase of school population; so that while in 1845 the amount apportioned among the various schools of Branch county aggregated $596, the November, 1905, distribution alone amounted to $17,563.50, or two dollars and seventy cents per capita.

The school legislation of Michigan while a territory had little bearing on the schools of Branch county, nor, in fact, on those in any other part of the territory. But the legislature in 1827 provided that "every township containing fifty inhabitants or householders should employ a schoolmaster



High School or Lincoln Building, Coldwater, 1905

of good morals to teach children to read and write and to instruct them in the English language as well as in arithmetic, orthography and decent behavior." A department of education was also established, at whose head was to be a superintendent of common schools appointed by the governor.

But very little was actually done in the way of public schools previous to the state organization. The first schools in Branch county were the result of voluntary effort on the part of the pioneers. The first settlers came, as we know, largely from the northeastern states, where education was fundamental and thoroughly a part of every-day life. It was natural, therefore, that whenever half a dozen families within a circle of two or three miles had secured a comfortable home shelter, the next business in order was to organize a school. A site was selected, a log building erected, and some person in the community who had had exceptional advantages in the east or who professed an ability as pedagogue was employed to conduct the school. And from each home a path was blazed through the forest trees by which the children could find their way to and from the schoolhouse.

The building of this first schoolhouse marked a stage in the history of the community. Almost without exception in this part of the middle west the school was the first institution. It preceded the church, and sometimes the first town meeting was held there. It was the central point of the community life. There the settlers met to vote and perform the civil business; there the questions that confront a new social organization were discussed and solved; there men and women met for social enjoyment, and there they came together for religious worship. The schoolhouse was the focal point of pioneer life, and its importance cannot be too strongly emphasized.

The early schoolhouses have often been described. Many were built of logs, some of sawed lumber, while a few were of stone or brick. That the log schoolhouse is something more than a tradition to men and women of Branch county who are still in the prime of life, may be inferred from the fact that as late as 1868 the county superintendent of schools reported five log schoolhouses in use. In the following year he reported that all these had disappeared but one.

While the exterior of the building varied, the interior furnishings were about the same. Built at one end of the room was the mud and stick chimney, with the broad fire-place. To keep the fire blazing briskly by a plentiful supply of logs was the task of the older boys, while in the summer some of the girls would often fill the bare hearth space with flowering plants. The rough walls of the room were unadorned except as the individual taste of a teacher might seek to relieve its dreariness; the floors were often of broad, roughly hewn puncheons laid on the ground, or, if the building was of frame, thick boards were spiked to ground sills, with wide cracks between the boards affording an easy escape for pencils, jack-knives and other schoolboy impedimenta.

The seats were indeed primitive. They were nothing more than a split log with the flat surface up, and resting on legs driven into holes on the

under side, or the timber for the seat might be a plank with some attempt at smoothing the top surface. But there were no backs to these benches, and the tired little bodies of pioneer children got no rest except by leaning forward; little attention was paid in those days to erectness of carriage. There were no desks in the modern sense of the term. Around two or three sides of the room was fixed a broad board, with a slant convenient for the writer, and on this the pupils, or as many of them as this rough form of desk would accommodate, did their writing and figuring. A piece of slate was used for all calculations, and paper was only used for penmanship exercises.

Of school apparatus there was none. In the report for 1868 above quoted the superintendent says a blackboard was the extent of equipment in most schools, and the blackboard was introduced many years after the pioneers' children had gone from the schools into actual life. Graphite pencils were also unknown. A "pen knife" was then a necessary part of the teacher's equipment, for he used that instrument in a way to suggest the name, that is, to manufacture for each scholar a pen from a selected goosequill. Paper was coarse and expensive, and the era of cheap wood-pulp paper tablets did not begin until comparatively recently.

When the settlers came from the east many of them brought along a few school books such as the parents had used, coming from every one of the New England and middle Atlantic states, these books when brought into the school by individual pupils formed a heterogeneous collection. Yet from these the teacher was supposed to assign the lessons, and from a chaos of texts to reduce uniformity. The difficulty was not so great as might be imagined. For the curriculum consisted of the three r's, "reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic," and so far as the instruction in these branches went it might be obtained from almost any set of books. The one book that seems to have an abiding place in every memory was the old blue-backed Webster's Elementary Speller. This was the backbone of every school, and far from being cast aside when school days were over it continued as the basis for the spelling schools which young and old attended until within the memory of men and women who are not yet past the prime of life. And if we may trust the judgment of many, spelling was a more carefully cultivated art in those days than at present, and the boys and girls of half a century ago would be more than a match for the present generation of spellers.

A school inspector's report on Batavia township for 1838 names the following books as most commonly used in the schools: The Elementary Speller, Olney's Geography and Atlas, Daboll's Arithmetic, and Murray's Grammar, and Murray's English Reader. To modern taste, these books are dry and unattractive both in form and content. What would a boy or girl think of a reader without a single illustration and with such a title page as this:—"The English Reader: or Pieces in Prose and Poetry, selected from the Best Writers, designed to assist young persons to read with Propriety and Effect; to Improve their Language and Sentiments, and to inculcate some of the most important Principles of Piety and Virtue; with a few preliminary observations on the Principles of Good Reading." Such

was the Murray English Reader, printed in 1818 and in common use among the first schools of Branch county.

Such were, in general, the first schools in Branch county. Although no efficient system of education was established until after Michigan became a state, there were, as above noted, voluntary associations among the settlers for holding school sessions in certain localities. The data is not available for a complete sketch of the early schools, and no complete reports from over the county are to be found previous to 1850.

The first school was taught in the locality of the first settlement. John Toole, an immigrant of 1829, located in what is now Bronson township and taught a small school there in the winter of 1829-30. There were at that time probably not more than five or six families in all to contribute to its support. Shortly after, perhaps in the next winter, a school was taught on Bronson prairie by Columbia Lancaster, the versatile pioneer who could be pedagogue, lawyer and doctor at will. School was held in a log building, probably the first erected for that purpose in the county. Mrs. David Waterman was teacher of a summer school at the same place. Cynthia Gloyd is also named as one of the first teachers of the township.

In 1832 the well known Bishop Philander Chase, who did so much in building up Episcopacy in the west, came to the county seeking a farm. Delighted with the country about Gilead, he settled there with his family, and built a school building in 1833. This house was twenty by thirty feet and two stories high. The first teacher was the Bishop's nephew, Samuel Chase. The old "seminary" building remained standing on section 9 for over forty years, and became in time a dwelling, being used as such until torn down. This Episcopal school was maintained for several years, and the children of the first settlers were schooled there. Mrs. David N. Green of Coldwater is probably the only surviving pupil of that school, she having come to the settlement in 1838 and attended the school while Dudley Chase, a son of the Bishop, was teacher.

The subject of the early schools of Coldwater has been very thoroughly treated by Mr. C. N. Legg. He says: "The earliest settlers appear to have combined to hire instruction for their children by tutors, and the children, the few there were, met in the cabins of the pioneers. Cynthia Gloyd, a woman who later taught in the first schoolhouse, was engaged to teach at different places prior to the erection of a schoolhouse. The first building for use as a schoolhouse was erected at the corner of where is now Pearl and Hudson streets, and very near the present location of the residence of Mr. Frank Treat. This was a frame one-room building and painted red. It was called as long as it stood the "Red School House." It was built in 1834, but when it ceased to be used as a schoolhouse I have no means of learning. Cynthia Gloyd was probably the first person who taught here. A man by the name of McWhorter also taught for some time. Mr. L. D. Halsted recently related to me his recollections of this schoolhouse and the man McWhorter. One circumstance which fixed in his mind the man was, that in the winter of 1836 he attended a singing class taught in the school-

house, and McWhorter became angry because he was compelled to sweep up the room after the sessions of the singing class. The late Harvey Haynes also taught here in 1838. Here the children of the pioneers were taught the rudiments of such an education as they were able to acquire. It is a fact which should be borne in mind by this as well as subsequent generations that the first task of the early pioneers of this city was to provide shelter and food for their families, and the next was to provide shelter and teacher for instruction of their children.

So much for the first schools and those originating while Michigan was yet a territory. Under the first state constitution Rev. John D. Pierce was appointed the first superintendent of public instruction. In accordance with a vote of the legislature Mr. Pierce reported to that body in January, 1837, a code of school laws, which was adopted with but little change. The general plan of education thus established is the foundation upon which the present system has been built.

The township was the unit. Each township had three school inspectors, whose duty it was to organize school districts, to apportion the school moneys to the districts; to examine teachers and grant certificates; and to appoint one of their number to visit the schools twice a year and to make an annual report to the county clerk. These boards of inspectors continued to exercise control over the schools of their respective townships until the county superintendency was established in 1867.

Each district, however, had the control of its own school. A district could vote a tax for buildings, not to exceed five hundred dollars in any one year. Each district was required to hold school at least three months each year. Each district had to assess a tax to the primary school fund apportioned to the district, and if the teacher's wages exceeded the funds, the board could assess a tax to meet the deficiency, but not to exceed ninety dollars, the limit fixed by law. Also, the district could vote ten dollars a year for a library.

It was soon found that this method of raising school revenues by district taxation proved insufficient for the support of schools. To remedy this the legislature passed, in 1843, the famous "rate bill" law, which provided that the patrons of each school might raise the funds necessary to continue the school through the term. The parents or guardians of the children were assessed a tax in proportion to the time such children attended school. This rate bill was made out by the teacher at the close of each term, and the amount distributed among the patrons. The law did not work well, for the poor parents or those indifferent to education would send to school as long as the public funds lasted, and when the rate bill set in would take their children out. Primary education thus became a question of ability to pay for it, and the fundamental principle of popular education was threatened. Nevertheless, despite the inequality, the rate bill law was not repealed until 1869. Some idea of the working of this rate bill law may be gained by reference to the township reports for 1850. The report from Batavia shows that district No. 8 raised $62.65 on the rate bill. Estimating the teacher's wages at the

then prevailing average of six dollars a month for a woman teacher and thirteen for a man, it will be seen that this school was continued for several months of the year from the proceeds of the rate bill, the children of the poorer parents probably being without instruction during this time. In the same township district No. 2 raised by the same method $43.14, and district No. 1, $33. In Bronson township the four districts raised $184.06 in this way, and the six districts in California raised $217.

The original plan, as above outlined, contemplated only single districts, with a single house, and but one teacher; and all references to teachers and sites were in the singular number. But as the population increased it was seen that expediency often demanded more than one teacher, and sometimes more than one schoolhouse in the same district. The township board under these conditions would have had no option but to sub-divide the district and provide for two or more separate schools in the original district. To maintain several adjacent district schools, co-ordinate in work and rank, was evidently at the expense of efficiency and economy. The laws were therefore amended so as to permit a union of adjoining districts wherever the population was sufficiently dense to admit of bringing a large number of children into one system of graded schools, without embracing too much territory to be thus well accommodated.

This was the origin of the "union school" in Michigan. The true significance of the term had reference not so much to the uniting of the districts as to the system of grading which resulted from the union. The real meaning of a "union school" was therefore a graded school, located in the more populous communities, with one central schoolhouse, having several different rooms and employing several different teachers. No such school was established in Branch county until the decade of the fifties, and the organization of a union or graded school marked in important stage in the development of educational institutions in each of the villages.

The general supervision and control of the schools of the county and townships has been vested by the legislature in different bodies at various times. The township board of inspectors established by the original laws was changed, as noted above, by an act of March 13, 1867, which created the office of county superintendent of schools. Less than ten years later this act was repealed, and on March 31, 1875, the law took effect transferring the control once more to the township, and requiring the election in each township of one superintendent of schools and one school inspector. The township superintendent was required to examine teachers, grant certificates and visit the schools of his township twice a year. He with the school inspector and the township clerk constituted the board of school inspectors for each township. This system endured for a number of years, until it was again thought best to centralize the control of county schools in one office. June 19, 1891, the law still in effect was approved. This required that the board of supervisors should appoint a county commissioner of schools who should hold office until July 1, 1893, at which time the commissioner regularly elected by the voters at the election in April should begin his duties. At

the same meeting the supervisors were to appoint two school examiners, for one and two year terms respectively, and the board should thereafter appoint one examiner at each annual meeting. The county commissioner and the two examiners constitute the board of school examiners. The county commissioner has general oversight of the schools in the county, being required to visit each school, and also advises with the board of school inspectors in each township.

As soon as the machinery of education was set in operation by the first state legislature, the various townships took measures to form districts and conform to the general scheme of education. The existing reports and other school data do not suffice for a complete account of the status of schools in 1837, but it will be of interest to describe conditions as far as possible. For that year one report of the school inspector in Ovid township has been found. In this it is stated that there was one district school in the township, thirty-six children of school age and twenty-three who attended the sessions of the three months' term. The total amount raised in the district was eighteen dollars, which went to pay the teacher. This no doubt was the first school in the township, but no further information is given concerning it. This also indicates an error in the History of 1879, in which it is stated that Mr. Parley Stockwell, who came to the township as late as 1842, built the first schoolhouse and taught the second term of school that was held therein. It is probable that Mr. Stockwell's school was the first in that part of the township, that is, at Parley's Corners in section 16.

The only other report found for 1837 relates to Butler township. No school had been kept there during the year but there were twenty children of school age and five hundred dollars had been raised for a schoolhouse. This school was built on Shook's Prairie, and during the winter of 1838-39 Charles M. Wisner presided as the first teacher.

Batavia township reported in 1838 three district schools, with 29, 46 and 31 pupils respectively, and the total amount raised by taxation in the township as ninety dollars. The record pertaining to the organization of two of these districts will be found quoted in the former history, and from these it is seen that the meeting for organization of district No. 1 took place in May, 1836, and that for the formation of No. 2, in December of the same year.

Each township established one or more schools about this time. As is well known, although the settlement of Branch county had hardly begun in 1830, in twenty years from that date the population had increased to a stage from which there has been only moderate changes to the present day. The formation of schools kept pace with this increase of population. and it is unfortunate that the records of this period of growth have not been preserved, for at the time complete statistics are available the school population and number of districts had reached very nearly the normal figures.

Thus the whole number of children included in the school census of 1905 was 6,505, while in 1855 the number was 6,359. While the school population and the number of districts has remained about the same, the

story of educational growth in fifty years is best told in a comparison of the money expenditures. Whereas the Primary School interest apportioned for the year 1855 totaled $3,383.23, or a little more than fifty cents to the child, in 1905 the total distributed in the May and November apportionments was $21,466.50, or two dollars and thirty cents to the child. While population has remained stationary, wealth has increased enormously. The county schools in 1855 raised nearly $3,500 by means of the rate bill, in addition to the $2,500 raised by the mill tax. At the present time some of the districts support their schools almost entirely through the income of the state fund.

Fifty years ago a blackboard was the extent of apparatus in most schools; now the schools in the majority of the 127 districts in the county are supplied with dictionaries. globes, maps, and the scholars have access to libraries which in themselves offer advantages unknown to the children of the former date.

As early as 1868 the state superintendent of public instruction called attention to the need of uniting rather than dividing districts. He showed the waste and inefficiency of small districts, which condition continued because the people desired to have a schoolhouse "near by," a false estimate being placed upon the value of a home school. Since then conditions have materially changed. Roads are better, and with increased facilities of transportation the bounds of community life have been widened. The interests of the people are more closely knit together, and old forms of individualism are disappearing.

The movement which fifty years ago resulted in the formation of the first "union schools" is now being extended to the rural schools. In line with this direction of progress, the state legislature enacted a law which became effective September 17, 1903, permitting the transportation of pupils to and from school at the expense of the districts concerned. This is perhaps the most important legislation of recent years affecting the rural schools. As yet the people of Branch county have not taken advantage of recent legislation permitting the consolidation of school districts into larger districts comprehending in some cases an entire township, with a central graded school accessible, by means of public transportation, to all the pupils in the district. As the county school commissioner, Mr. James Swain, has said in his report for 1905, "We have too many small schools, but many people seem to be jealous of their rights and are very slow to see the benefit to be derived from consolidation of schools."

One or two other statements from the county commissioner's report may serve as a basis from which subsequent developments in educational affairs may be reckoned. With reference to the study of agriculture in the rural schools he says, "Agriculture is best taught by practical experiments, and many schools have placed the book *'Agriculture for Beginners'*, in their library, which is a source of help and a guide for the boys and girls." As to manual training, it "has received attention only in a limited way in the

rural schools. A few teachers feel that they have the time to devote at least one hour each week to the subject."

Another subject that should be mentioned in a history of the Branch county schools is that concerning compulsory education. Until 1905 the law vested the power to compel attendance in the township board, the chairman of which was the executive officer to carry the law into effect. Practically, it was optional with this board whether the law should be enforced, and at best the board could require the child to attend school only four months of sixteen days each, or sixty-four days in the entire year. That the plan was defective is shown by the fact that in 1905 only 47 out of 127 districts in the county attempted to enforce the law.

Beginning with the year 1905-06 a new law became operative. Instead of the enforcement of the law being left with each township, it is the duty of the county commissioner of schools to see that its provisions are effective in all districts throughout the entire school year. The executive or truant officer is a deputy sheriff appointed by the sheriff and acting under the supervision of the county commissioner. All children between and including the ages of seven and fifteen years are compelled to attend school so long as schools are in session in their district, in other words, for the entire school year. The only exception to this rule are children excused by physician's certificate; or those in attendance at a private or parochial school in which the same grade of work is done as in the public schools; or in case of children over fourteen years of age whose labor is necessary to the support of the family, who may be excused from attendance with the unanimous consent of the township board and the recommendation of the county commissioner.

As to the actual workings of the law during the first year it has been in effect, County Commissioner Swain states that no difficulty has been experienced in enforcement except among the few foreign families in the county. This is evidence of the strong sentiment for popular education in the county, and it is no weak proof of the prosperity of the county which after three quarters of a century of growth and development can afford to provide all the means of primary education and require its children for the first sixteen years of their lives to attend school an average of eight months in the year.

CHAPTER XXI.

EDUCATION (CONTINUED).

Coldwater City Schools.

With reference to the schools of Coldwater village and city, Mr. Legg, whose article has been above quoted concerning the first Coldwater schoolhouse, continues thus: "The next schoolhouse was built on a part of the lot No. 104 at the corner of Pearl and Clay streets on land largely owned by Dr. I. C. Ives. A meeting was called at the 'Exchange' on June 1, 1839, at which time a new district was formed designated as 'district No. 11.' This new district embraced all the territory north of Chicago street and for a mile west of Marshall street and extending north two miles; also all the land on section 21 lying south of Chicago street and west of Division street. The officers of this new district were: Silas A. Holbrook, moderator; Orsemus B. Clark. director; Henry Lockwood, assessor. At a meeting called and held eight days later, the district board was authorized to purchase a part of the lot mentioned above as a school site and to raise money to construct a building. This was built in 1839. Mr. Halsted remembered the building well, and Mrs. R. M. Wilder attended school in this building and remembers seeing it being moved away years later. It is not probable that this building was used as a schoolhouse longer than about ten years, as about this time population began to increase very rapidly and more commodious quarters were soon demanded. This building then was the second for school purposes. It evidently was of modest proportions, as its cost must have been less than five hundred dollars. The district contained in 1839 but 68 children of school age. In the following year the number increased to 93. It is probable that the late Hiram Shoudler taught here. A Mr. Etheridge also taught here, but whether it was the late Burt Etheridge who lived here at that time, or Samuel Etheridge who was moderator of this district in 1841, or a younger man, I have not been able to ascertain.

"The next school building in order of construction was the 'Old White Schoolhouse' as called in later years, erected on the present site of the second ward building. After searching the files of the *Sentinel,* edited by the late Albert Chandler, it appears that this building was erected in the summer of 1847. The dimensions were 30 by 60 feet, two stories high, and the contract price of the construction was $1,200. During two or three years prior to this time, notices of political meetings and other assemblages mentioned the 'White Schoolhouse' as the place of meeting. It is therefore evident that the schoolhouse on lot 104 at the corner of Pearl and Clay streets

was painted white. The records of St. Mark's church mention a meeting at the 'White Schoolhouse,' where the society had heretofore held stated meetings, for the purpose of organizing a parish. This was in February, 1848, and probably refers to the building on lot No. 104 rather than the new building. There remain quite a number of the older people of the city who attended school here and the names of Mrs. George Holbrook, John Murphy, Mrs. D. H. Davis, Miss Hadley, L. R. Austin and others are remembered as teachers in this building. The first county fair was held in this building and on the adjoining grounds. It served the purposes of a schoolhouse for many years and was finally removed to the corner of Chicago and Hudson streets, where it was occupied as a wagon shop until finally destroyed by fire.

"The next building erected for school purposes was the two-story brick building on the present site of the third ward building. In recent years of its existence it was commonly known as the 'Old Brick.' This was constructed in 1848, the year following the building of the 'Old White,' but in district 11. The movement to consolidate the two districts appears not to have been carried into effect until several years later. This building continued in use for school purposes until torn down in 1887 to make room for the present third ward building. In this building the late D. H. Davis taught for several years while it remained the principal school of the city before the erection of the Old High School. One of the teachers whom some may recall was Miss Parthenia Havens. A man by the name of Gibson was principal at the time the Old High School building was afterwards constructed, and was transferred to the new building as its first principal. The late George W. Stevens, as well as his wife, taught here for many years after Gibson left."

Mr. Legg has referred to the movement to consolidate the two Coldwater districts. Some facts taken from Principal D. H. Davis's report to the superintendent of public instruction, dated Jan. 16, 1858, will show when this consolidation took place and some other features of the schools at that time. "Our union school," says Mr. Davis, "was organized in September, 1853. It embraces two school buildings, on sites distant from each other one-half mile. The east site embraces two acres, the west one and a fourth acres. The school has no apparatus or library. We have, however, a town library of about four hundred and fifty volumes, to which the pupils have access. The number of teachers at present employed is eight; the average number of students the past year was about three hundred and fifty. The number at present in attendance is about four hundred and fifty. After considerable experience I am of the opinion that the co-education of the sexes is decidedly preferable to their being educated separately. * * * The expenses of the school are, in part, met by a rate bill. Perhaps one-fifth of the expenses are paid in this way. * * * Our union school organization has from the first encountered considerable opposition, and I am not prepared to say that the views and feelings of our citizens are as yet quite united and harmonious in its favor."

"The building about which cluster the memories of the school days of

the early and older alumni," continues Mr. Legg, "was the first Union or High School so-called, erected in 1861 on the site of the present high school building. It was dedicated by public exercises held in the auditorium on Saturday evening, February 1, 1862. This was an imposing structure, and contained thirteen rooms, as I remember, including the two recitation rooms adjacent to the high school room so-called. The rooms were high, the stairways were long, and by the time students attained the third floor it was time to rest.

"This building was the home of most of the members of the Alumni Association in their school days. It was unfortunately constructed for school purposes. being high and difficult to climb and dangerous perhaps to descend. I am egotistical enough, however, to believe that few if any high schools in the state have afforded better or more efficient instruction. January 19, 1890, in the later hours of the night, when the building fortunately was unoccupied, it was completely destroyed by fire, including most of the school records and books, and the books of the students."

May 5, 1890. the city voted a new school building, only twenty adverse votes being recorded against the proposition. The large Lincoln school building, which is one of the architectural features of the city, was accepted as completed by the board of education on July 9, 1891, and since that time it has been in use throughout the school years. As large as is this building, it is crowded to full capacity, and in a short time additional room will have to be provided either in the shape of a new high school building separate from the grades or some other combination of facilities.

Of the ward schools, the fourth ward building was erected in 1867 and has been in continual use as a ward building since. The present second ward school was built in the summer of 1883.

Of school life forty years ago. Mr. Legg says: "In those years athletics cut a slight figure. There was no base ball, foot ball nor field days for the display of physical prowess. Considerable attention was given to literary exercises and as I believe to the great advantage of the students. Two literary societies in the high school alternated in giving Friday afternoon exercises, and considerable rivalry existed between them. Charles S. Warburton was, for a greater part of the time he was a student in the high school, president of one of these societies until he left to complete his education at Evanston, Illinois. He was a persistent fighter and debater—elements of his personal character which have been the key to his success in after life. He is now a resident of Springfield, Mass., a director of the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co., having charge and control of the loans of that company, amounting to many millions of dollars. Among the students of those days who were active in the literary societies were: R. F. Tinkham, Frank Sherman, Cad White, Amos Jennings, W. V. W. Davis, Anna Chandler, Celia Parker, Franc Wendell, Eliza Benton, and others equally active whom I do not now recall."

It was on June 30, 1866, that the nucleus of the present Alumni Association was formed under the name of "The Reunion Society of the Cold-

water High School." The first officers elected were Charles N. Legg, president; R. F. Tinkham, vice president; Alice Adams, secretary; Nellie Dibble, treasurer. All of these are living. Alice Adams later became the wife of Prof. George E. Church, and Nellie Dibble the wife of Norton E. Champion. In addition to the officers a committee of arrangements was appointed consisting of Miss Franc Wendell, Mr. Hastings, Laura A. Warren, and George A. Coe, Jr. A committee on constitution and rules comprised C. M. White, Charles T. Allen and Eliza Benton.

The alumni of the Coldwater high school from 1868 to the present year are as follows:

1868—Eliza Benton, Chas. N. Legg, R. F. Tinkham.

1869—*Anna M. Chandler, Alice L. Rose (Mains), *Frank L. Sherman, Libbie E. Townsend (Leland), Mary L. Wright (Meyers).

1870—Florence J. Burns (Howd), Mary E. Burns (McLaughlin), *Eliza Day, George L. Harding, Carrie L. Perry (Towne), Augusta E. Rose (Burr), *Merritt Sherman, A. M. Stearns, *Pliny W. Titus, Homer B. Walling.

1871—Kittie M. Cutter (Buggie), Milo D. Campbell, M. L. Dakin (Campbell).

1872—Celia Cohen, Byron S. Spofford, *Dora S. Titus.

1873—Eva M. Abbott, Frank R. Cook, *Allie E. Hudson (Drake), Albert J. Norton, *Sarah E. Warne, Hattie E. Wright (Ingram).

1874—John W. Barron, Lillian M. Burdick (Galloway), Anna S. French (Young), H. Clarence Loveridge, Eva L. Tinkham (Seaman), *Cora I. Townsend, Rose E. Wade (Dickinson), Andrew J. Whitehead.

1875—Eva A. Ball (Martin), *Wallace A. Demarest, Jennie M. Dickinson (Bishop), Emma Kritchbaum (Quay), Lillah M. Mockridge (Vanderhoof), Ella E. Murphey, *Henry C. Stafford, Belle Whittaker (Alexander).

1876—Belle J. Culver (Shinn), Lewis F. Culver, Birdie L. Cutter (Pratt), Nellie L. Driggs, *Judson P. Etheridge, Nellie H. Ferguson (Evans), Fred W. Fonda, Mary O. Hyde, Flora Oakley (Jaynes), Alice C. Perkins (Kerr), Ella V. Perkins (Taylor), Jessie D. Pope (Sawyer), Julius Rodman, Dell Root (Howard), Maggie C. Upson (Clarke).

1877—*Annie L. Alden (Sampson), Albert A. Allen, Lizzie M. Burnett, Clara E. Bushnell (Castle), Florence A. Cornell (Palmer), Mattie A. Grinnell (Green), Hattie L. Grove (Wurtz), Allie Mansfield (Cunningham), C. Burdett Sawyer, Norton D. Walling, Etta A. Warne (Hathaway), Edwin K. Whitehead, Lellah G. Woodward.

1878—Florence E. Buck, *Ida E. Burrows (Calkins), Frances E. Chandler (Ellis), Ralph F. Clarke, L. Belle Cogshall (Barnard), *Hattie E. Demarest (Schrontz), Laura M. Halsted (Dunn), *Flora T. Hyde, Mary E. Ketcham (Crippen), Mary E. Lockwood (Lockwood), *Clara M. Murphey, Ida L. Newton, Emma L. Perkins (Edgerton), Emma L. Purin-

*Deceased.

ton (Howe), Fannie G. Shaw (Streeter), Belle Stevenson, William Streeter, Mae C. Warren (Parker), *Herbert J. Williams, Harry P. Woodward.

1879—Floyd Bellamy, Henry Bradley, Della Buffham (Potter), *Mary Burt (Schrontz), Mary Button (Johnson), Lilla Carleton (Hatch), Sue Everett (Cook), Della Filkins (Osband), *Mary Fonda (Beebe), Eva Haynes (Snover), Ella Ludwig, *Belle Mansell, Willis Phinney, Maggie Parkhurst (Morey), Fannie Rose, Ettie Twadell, M. J. Withington.

1880—Mae Bradley, John S. Evans, Philip Gilbert, Sarah Hanburg (Cody), *Rufie A. Jordan (Blake), Clarence Vincent.

1881—Fanny Andrews (Goodjon), Edson P. Bradley, *Ethel Snyder, John T. Starr, *Minnie Tinkham.

1882—*Mable Clarke (Worcester), Juno Edmonds (Conover), Nettie Fisher (Baldwin), Warren French, Mary Gruner (Mitchell), Belle Kerr (Cudner), Flora Moss (Jackson), Willis H. Osborn, Cora Styles (Humphrey), Carmi Smith, Blanche Vincent.

1883—Elmer J. Allen, Mamie Booklass (Sayles), Cora Crippen (Kelly), J. Amanda Davis (VanNess), Adda Filkins (Breed), Clayton C. Johnson, Harry King, Eva Nye (Myers).

1884—Carrie Adams, Cora L. Allen, Flora Burr (Shaffmaster), Nina Clark, Mary Crippen (Buttrick), Edith E. Holbrook, Cora Lee (Osborne), Jessie F. Marshall (Woodward), Lizzie Orr, *Stella Rosenbaum, Linnie Sanford (Parker), Jennie Vincent (Nettleman), Laura E. Whitley (Moore).

1885—Flora Barnes (Gallaher), Charles U. Champion, James Smith Chandler, Ida Engle, Nettie E. Filkins, Georgia Fisher, *Orson Fonda, Florence E. Munson (Nason), Minnie Painter (Howe), Mabel Randall, *Mattie R. Robinson, Mary Whitten.

1886—Inez Bell, Aggie Brown (Wise), Eva Engle, Charles F. Howe, George S. Lee, Maud Paddock (Lee), Lottie Rawson (Hawes), Elizabeth Wallace (Cogshall).

1887—L. Dell Gripman, Arthur G. Holbrook, John T. Holbrook, Carrie V. Ingram (George), Jennie M. Lind (Gripman), Will S. Lockwood, Minnie A. Nivison, Jesse F. Orton, *Edwin M. Reynolds, Mabel Thorpe (Jones).

1888—Anna M. Coombs (Moore), William Smith Chandler, *Burr Fairbanks, Ella L. Fisher, *Harriet Ives, *Sarah Ives, *Della Saxton, Mabel Smith (Biery), Cora Taggart (Westfall), Maude B. Wheeler (Champion), Eliza M. Young (Weaver).

1889—*Lena Amner (Gowdy), *Kate Bishop, Carl Brundage, Ralph Drake, Lida Gillett (Bixler), Edwin D. Hoyt, Lola Paddock, Ida M. Roblee (Van Aken), Anna Seely, George C. Turner, Edward T. Waffle.

1890—Clara M. Bennett, Maud E. Chestnut (Stebbins), Ruth H. Crippen, David N. Gillett, W. Edwin Hodgman, Florence M. Holmes, Nathaniel L. Holmes, *Michael E. Keely, *Maud L. Milnes (Burnell), Edna L. Paddock, Helen L. Randall (Kidder), Harry W. Simons, Rose E. Sweet (Smith).

1891—Mabel Aldrich (Griffin), William I. Aldrich, George W. Barron, Mary Esther Bowers (Olds), Nellie F. C. Bray (Bennett), Carrie E. Eggleston, Maude Lucile Eggleston, Thomas Forman Ewing, Olive Blanch Lind, William Henry Milnes, Frank Bernard Reynolds, Effie Lois Roberts (Luedders), Byron Clement Thorpe, Cora Blanch Thorpe (Spotts), Lottie E. Weldy, Myrtle Enola Woodcox (Stevens).

1892—Regena E. Bates (Corless), Hella B. Bixler (Lee), Harrison W. Brodhead, *Harriette E. Brown, Mary Louise Brown (Bingham), E. Virginia Ewing (Pitcher), Florence E. Hiatt, Bertha Hilton (Mason), Jessie E. Ives, *Thomas B. Lee, Esther C. Paddock, Leroy Palmer, Edith Irene Root (Calkins), *Charles Coville Shearer, Louise Adelle Spaulding (Milnes), Georgiana L. Starr, *L. Dudley Stevens, Lizzie M. Stevens (Campbell), Ralph R. Stoddard.

1893—Nathan E. Barlow, Nettie C. Bates, Everett D. Brodhead, Charles J. Chubb, Dollie N. Cosper (Morey), Leon L. Goodnow, Floy Hungerford, F. Eola Kerr, Charles C. King, Fanny C. King (Malbone), Dora Maxon, F. Maud Pratt, Jessie M. Styles (Cross), Mayme A. Williams (Fletcher).

1894—Nellie M. Burk, Celia Belle Burns (Oxenham), Howard Brodhead, Jr., Kate Bernice Conover, Edna Adelle Cummings, *Clarence G. Dickey, Harriet E. Estlow (Randolph), Harlow J. Evans, Lola Adelle Fairbanks, Myrtle Elizabeth Filkins, Fred H. Harris, Minnie Chandler Hawks, Albert Curriden Howe, Alva M. Hungerford, Horace Kitchel, *Clayton B. Langwell, Cecelia Adeline Milnes (Turner), Myrtle K. Montague, Grace Newberry (Kitchel), Elizabeth H. Paddock, Minnie E. Pollock (Brown), Frank Ira Post, Nina Rosamond Spaulding (Turner), LaVerne W. Spring, William J. Sweeney.

1895—Gertrude Anna Baxter (Brock), *Adelbert Guy Bender, *Almeda Maud Black, Ella Porter Bowen (Hudson), Marietta Burdette, Francis Xavier Busch, Grace Homan Dennis (Barlow), Eber Ward Farwell, George W. R. Ferguson, Nellie Mae Hiatt, Volney R. Hungerford, Vanchie Parks Moses, Bertha Louise Nixson, Beulah Grace Palmer (Manning), Mabel Julia Perry, Charles Milton Perry, Bertha V. Sitter (Bowerman), Evelyn Fernica Squires, Clara Louise Thompson, Guy A. Thurston, Carl Yaple.

1896—Daisy Gathel Allen (Tift), Stanislaus J. Bounavicz, Josephine M. Brown (Warner), Sarah Gertrude Chubb, Leon Bennett Clark, Elizabeth Eugenie Compton, Louis Jerome Compton, Sarah Belle DePue (Straight), *Carlton Leroy Gorman, Emily E. Hungerford, Josie Margarite Keeley, Margaret Louise Maloney, Anna Marie Monroe (Thurston), Mamie B. Nixon (Johnson), Grace Anna Smith (Vernon), Lena L. Teachout (Gruner), Orton Alonzo Turner, Nina Roxana Walker (Holz).

1897—Lyle D. Balcom, Burt E. Barlow, Clifford Allen Bishop, E. R. Clarke, Jr., Jessie Ethel Corless, Joseph Thomas Deuser, Emery Jennings Doerr, Rollin Lawrence Drake, Lela Eliza Dustman (Sherwood), Kittie May Eligh, Claude D. Filkins, Hervey Canfield Fisk, Frank Willis French, Rua Ethelind Greenamyer, Edith Hazel Holt (Mannerow), Blanche Hutch-

ins, Verna Mae Kerr, Margaret Angella Lilly (Clare), Bertha Mae Morgan, Clarence Lee Morrison, Max E. Neal, Carrie Mae Olmsted (Sweet), Carl Byron Paddock, Alice Amanda Patterson (Goble), Myrtie E. Phillips (Burnett), Ella Belle Quimby (Bassett), J. Gordon Spofford, Eva Lena Spring (Herrick), Iva Leona Thompson, Clara S. Warsabo (Haynes), Clark Wilson Williams.

1898—Maggie Lulu Anderson (Miller), Paul Barnhart, Nina Barron, A. Frederick Bruehl, Mabel Burk, C. Elizabeth Coombs (Saunders), Alta Lorene Coppin (Robbins), Merle Evelin Darrow, D. Duella Dickey, Esther Clarina Dimond, Delsie Dorena Dubendorf (Cook), Roy Kerr Eldridge, Mabel Arlean Ewing (McCracken), *Mattie Maude Freeman, Lloyd C. Greenamyer, B. Ione Gripman (Tripp), C. Vernon Hathaway, Flora E. Hilton (Fellman), Edmund George Johnson, Agnes Anna Lilly, Robert E. Lee, F. Edith Miner (Russell), Owen Bayard Parham, Ethelyn Gertrude Simons, C. Steele Spofford, Myrtle Irene Thornton.

1899—Grace W. Barron, Marie Elizabeth Blye (Perine), Frederick Starr Buggie, Carolyn M. Chubb (Baker), Harriett Bernice Cooley, Edith Joyce Goodman, Jennie Berdenah Hickey, Louis Alton Hutchins, Nellie Ethelyn Jones, Elsie AlMayda Long, Arthur George Lyon, Jessie Harriet Paddock, Kathleen Pratt, Charlotte S. Ray, Harriette G. Yesner.

1900—Bertha M. Bassett, Mabel A. Black, Hugh Wallace Clarke, Bertha R. Cook, Florence Rena Cooley, Lois Maude Cowell, Ralph Norton Conklin, Frank Meek Hiatt, Louise Margaret Hoyt (Hamilton), Rachel E. Ladd, Lewis Henry Osborn, Jessie M. Pollock, Ellatheda Spofford, Mabel Ellen Smith, Leon Clarence Yapp.

1901—Joel Martin Barnes, Archibald Lamont Chubb, Rolla Stuart Davis, Laura Edgerton Hughes, Josie Belle Molby, George Adelbert Morrison, Mary Elizabeth Phinney, Winnie May Sawin, Ezra Collin Shoecraft, Mary Julia Simons, *Charles Sumner Stuart, Jr., Fred George Wahl.

1902—Helen Louise Baldwin (Shoecraft), Mariet Margaret Buggie, Jessie Helena Cameron, Mara Watrous Conover, Louise Clizbe, Angeline Marion Dean, Don Dewey, Herbert Eldridge, Grace Houghton Fuller, Carl Henry Goodwin, Carrie Parham, Rolene Alta Root, Abishai J. Sanders, Archie Sanders, Mabel Victoria Sinclair, Alice Eleanor Southworth, William Stroh, Roland George Swaffield, Montie B. Taylor, Elmina Coe Thompson, J. Garfield Upp, Lena Elizabeth Weage, Mabel Yesner.

1903—Robert Russell Burdick, Glenn Danford Bradley, Flora May Barnard, Anna Bishop, Alma Agnes Cooley, Bert Wilson Culver, Amy Dimond, Edna May Evans, Robert George Evans, Perry William Flandermeyer, Dorlesca Cordelia Howe, Mabelle Louise Holmes, Edith Alice Lennox, Olive Beatrice Lennox, Arthur Edward Legg, Mary May Macdonough (Wahl), Harriet Pratt, Flora Elizabeth Root, Marie Beatrice Ronan, Rex Cameron Starr, Alice Elizabeth Vincent, Sarah Caroline Worcester.

1904—Carrie Barnard, Rolene Chandler (Cummins), Guy Chiesman, Reo Gripman, Ray Keeslar Immel, Lucile Jones, Satie Keep, Harry Kempster, Jessie Lawton, Ray Locke, Jessie Thurston, Myrtle White.

1905—Harriet N. Evans, Mabel Gripman, Wava Junk, Lou Kramer, Ethel Kerr, Rachel MacGowan, Burr Osborn, Burt Pitcher, Philip Robinson, Pearl Schrontz, Eleanor Stowell, George Wicker.

1906—Norah Jane Carroll, Rena Marguerite Clark, Fern Anchore Doerr, Harold Lewis George, Grace Leona Gray, Earl Ostrander Immel, Grayson Thomas Kinney, Frank Gardner Legg, Ray Howland Lockwood, Mary Grace Rawson, Harold Arthur Robinson, Isabelle Ellen Ronan, Mary Merle Schmedlen, Constance Stratton, Ethel Leone Stroh, William Embry White.

Quincy Schools.

The first school held at the center of Quincy township and attended by the children of persons now living in Quincy village was taught by Mrs. Peter Newberry at her home north of town. Mrs. E. B. Church and Jerome Clizbe are the only ones of her scholars still living. The first schoolhouse erected was of logs and stood on the site of the depot grounds. After about four or five years the log house was torn down and a frame schoolhouse put up in its place. In a few years the district became so large that one schoolhouse would not accommodate all the pupils, so a private school was organized in 1844, with Mrs. Bundy as teacher. When the railroad was built, in 1850, the schoolhouse was moved to where the Methodist church now stands, on West Chicago street. The Methodist church obtained this site about 1854, and the schoolhouse was moved to Jefferson street. On this occasion quite an argument arose as to whether the building should be moved east or west, so the people who lived in the west part of the district hitched their oxen to the west side of the building, and those in the east part hitched their oxen to the east side. When all were ready the spectators cried, "Pull long! Pull strong!" and the building moved to the east, thus deciding the question.

The district had grown so large now that the frame building and Mrs. Bundy's select school would not accommodate all, and another select school was organized, in 1854, to accommodate the older pupils. This was taught by a Mr. Watkins and was the first graded school in the district. Two years later the district decided to build another schoolhouse. This building was of brick, located on the corner of East Jefferson and Fulton streets, on the site still occupied by the central school building. The old frame building which had so long served the purposes of a school was sold to Jonas Culver, who moved it away and converted it into a dwelling.

The Union school movement described on a previous page was now taken up by the people of Quincy.

In 1869 the first brick building was remodeled. The front portion of the present building was erected as an addition to the old structure. This addition stands to-day, but in 1904 the part that had stood since 1858 and in which children and children's children and even grandchildren had learned their first lessons, was torn down, and replaced by a large and convenient addition at a cost of about ten thousand dollars. Thus the school building in

use at the present writing is a combination of the old and the new in school architecture, the front part, surmounted by the cupola, dating back to 1869 and the south side of the building being only two years old.

The Quincy high school maintains the high standard of Michigan high schools, is on the approved list of the State University and the State Normal, and its influence as an institution is shown by the ties which bind its alumni together and the pride the people in general manifest in the work of local education. The superintendent of the schools is F. E. Knapp, and his assistants in the upper grades' work are Amelia Todd, Ethel Fox and Jennie Burns. The board of education at this writing consists of these citizens: K. B. Etheridge, president; W. H. Lockerby, secretary; F. A. McKenzie, treasurer; A. L. Bowen and M. J. Rawson, trustees.

The Alumni Association of the Quincy high school was formed July 5, 1884, its first officers being: Miss Gertie Dobson, president; Dr. Will Marsh, vice president, and Samuel J. Gier, secretary and treasurer. The associations of early years have been renewed at each subsequent annual meeting, and the ties that form the basis of such an organization are such that the names of its members as they have been added from year to year are the most important document in the school's history.

As compiled from the records of the Alumni Association, the classes from 1876 to the present are:

1876—A. V. R. Pond; W. C. Marsh, a graduate of the University of Michigan's medical department, practicing in Quincy a few years, and now a prominent physician of Albion, Mich.; R. Upton Gay.

1880—Carrie Clark, Cora Clizbe, Livonia Rogers, May Wilson, May Collins, Adda Culver.

1882—Maude Joseph; Gertie Dobson, a teacher in Quincy schools for a long time, later a department teacher in Mt. Pleasant (Mich.) Normal, and now studying medicine in Rush Medical College; Jessie E. Cook; Howard J. Hill, formerly a dentist at Alma, Nebraska, where he has been successful in business and has now given up practice.

1883—Joie Golden, Elsie Babcock, Adda Archer, Cora E. Brown, Hubert Joseph.

1884—Blanche Daggett; Samuel J. Gier, now superintendent of the Hillsdale city schools; John B. Daish, an attorney at Washington, D. C.; Claude Larzelere, who graduated from the University of Michigan, took a post-graduate course at Harvard, and is now head of the history department of Mt. Pleasant Normal.

1885—Rena S. Barber, the wife of Prof. Larzelere just mentioned; Grace Markel, Orcelia Marshall, Grace M. Lytle, Ida M. Wilcox, Ella D. Sweeney; Ida A. Macklem and Franc M. Macklem, both teaching in the Elkhart schools.

1886—Rena B. Wright, Minnie M. Rathbun, Minnie M. Myers, Charles L. Van Orsdal.

1887—Gertie Blackman, Florence Mann, Hattie Swan, Alberta Hoffman, Vieva Wilcox, Auta Pratt, Estella Sanderson, Orlo Dobson.

1888—Lillian Bignell, the only graduate of that year, is now superintendent of the schools at Galesburg, Mich.

1889—Justus G. Lawson, a prominent attorney at Grand Rapids; J. Harry Nichols, J. Whitney Watkins, Charles L. Wood.

1891—Matie Decker, Phi Berry, Pearl Kinyon, Lena Berry, Ralph Turner, Ed. Crevie.

1892—Jessie C. Mason, Alice C. Ethridge, Allen J. Talent, Azalia M. Drake, Nettie M. Ball, Percy L. Freeman.

1893—Charles W. Morey, an electrical engineer in Chicago; Ethel Noble, T. Howard Hyslop, Blanche Baker, Georgia M. Turner, Fred J. Rathbun, Cora M. Blackman, Hattie L. Denham.

1894—Charles Harpham, now a member of the faculty of the University of Michigan; Arthur Bellis, a graduate of the University of Michigan, and now superintendent of schools at Birmingham, this state; James Bellis, a teacher in a business college at Ypsilanti; Dr. J. M. Blackman, of Quincy; W. G. Cowell, now prosecuting attorney of Branch county; Allie Day, Genevieve Allen, Fern Haysmer, Edith Haight.

1895—Charles A. D. Young, a government engineer on the Sault canal; Will Moore, Fred Wilbur, Bert Herrick, Lewis Powel, Arthur Noble, Ambrose Bailey, Pearl Herendeen, Rena Bowers, Minnie Bailey, Georgia Marks, Myrtie Sanderson, Louie Kinyon.

1896—Orrin Bowen, the Bronson attorney; Lula R. Knapp, wife of Volney Hungerford, superintendent of schools at Decatur, Michigan; Mary E. Allen, Ward W. Allen, Maud Babcock, Clifford A. Bishop, Erma M. Bogue, Cora M. Briggs, Lillian B. Culver, Julia E. Harpham, Ella Lashuay, Mabel Noble, Arthur E. Rogers, Fannie E. Spaulding, Lucinda Spaulding.

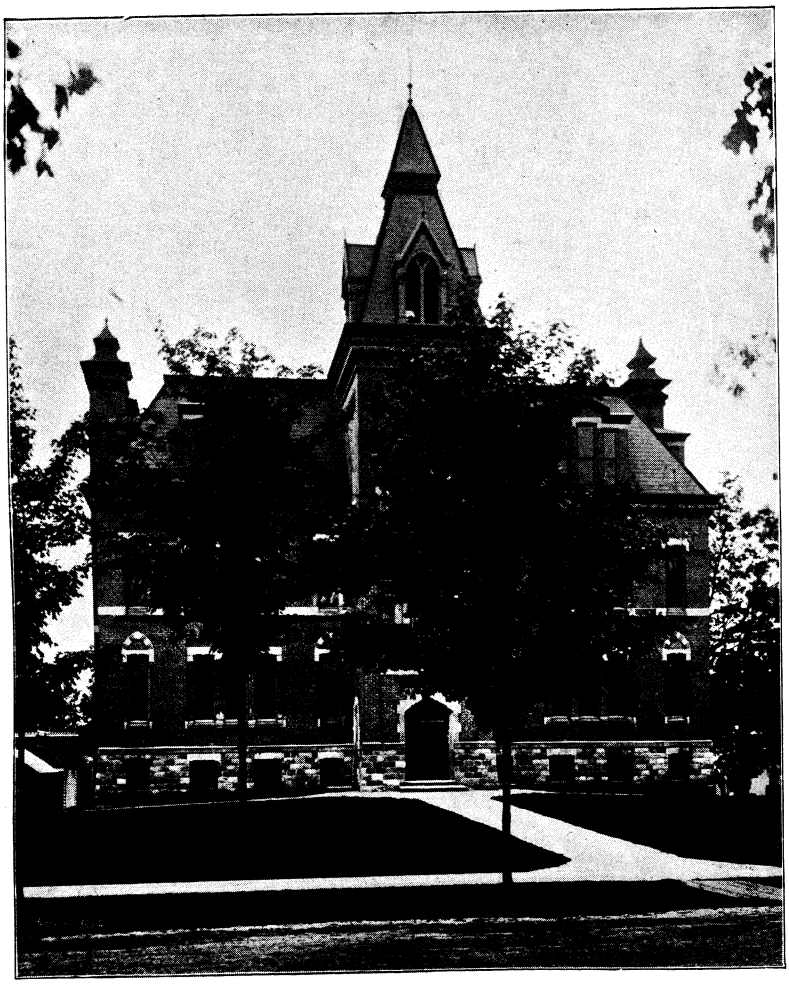
1897—Mabel Luse, Lottie Safford, Ira Trimm, Lulu Wiser, Bertie Mason, Ora Safford, Eva Vaughn, Mertie Strang, Frank Berry, Anna B. Orcutt, Maud Thompson, Arthur Berry, Minnie Oliver, Jennie Oliver.

1898—Alice Houghtaling, Angelene Haynes, Henry W. Austin, Mabel J. Belote, James W. Burns, Salla Spaulding, Joseph W. Barker, Carlotta E. Dean, Laura E. Eldred, Grace M. Harpham, Everett E. Dorris, Grace Bailey.

1899—Ruby Kinyon, Grace Kinyon, Emma Barber, W. Albert Eldred, Inis Herrick, Edith Hewitt, Edna Knapp, Otis Ransom, Essie Sharp, Vera Thompson, Eliza Warner, Orson Warner.

1900—Joel M. Barnes, now a special science student in the University of Michigan; Walter Failor, an electrical engineer and superintendent of an electric railway on the Pacific coast; Carl C. Sears, now practicing medicine at Quincy; Millie Barnes, Maria Bradon, W. John Burns, Nellie Herendeen.

1901—Carl Gottschalk, a graduate in electrical engineering from the University of Michigan; Harold C. Jones, a special student in chemistry at the University; Ralph S. Andrews, bookkeeper for the Wolverine Portland Cement Co. at Quincy; Kittie B. Iles, George R. Oxenham. Leona D. Barber, Ida M. Walter, Leora A. Walter, H. Lea Benge, Mable L. Etheridge.



Union City School Building

1902—Ray Whitmore, a graduate in medicine at the University of Michigan; Grace B. Walsh. Carry M. Sheldon, Anna Oxenham, Everett Benge.

1903—Harry Farwell, a draftsman at Detroit; Edith M. Green, formerly a Quincy teacher and now in the Ypsilanti Normal; Fred Boley, an electrical engineer at South Bend; Elva Gage, Lena Wilmarth, Sarah Safford, Louis Hoxie, Edith Walter, Ralph Keeler, Glenn Ransom.

1904—Ralph McKenzie, Robert Sanderson, Ross D. Porter, Morean Etheridge, Myrta Crater, Clara Stafford, Jessie Bowerman, Jessie Robinson, Wilhelmina Walsh, Roe Horning, Louie Knirk.

1905—Charles H. Walters, Edan M. Ransburg, Greta W. Forte, Ray R. Brott, Mary E. Penoyer, Florence M. Dickerson, Charles H. Walters, Lulu B. Brott, Jessie M. Aldrich, Rena A. Tompkins, Roy A. Boley, Nellie M. Larzelere, Bernice V. Newberry, Harry E. Robinson.

The officers of the Alumni Association for 1905-06 were: Mrs. George Houghtaling, president; Miss Jessie Aldrich, vice president; Dr. Carl Sears, secretary and treasurer.

Union City Schools.

The first schoolhouse in Union City, built in 1837, a frame structure, painted red and long known as "the red schoolhouse," is still standing upon its original site at the corner of Ellen and Ann streets, having been for many years in use as a dwelling. A little further down on Ellen street is the handsome three-story brick and stone building that for the past thirty years has been the central school building of the village. These two buildings graphically illustrate the contrast between the educational facilities of the first half of the nineteenth century and those of the present. The pioneer equipment of schools described in an earlier part of this article on education has been displaced by apparatus and methods in all respects in keeping with the character of the buildings which now provide shelter for educational work. The people of Union City are justly proud of their schools, and the principal events in the progress of the educational institutions of the village should be given at this point.

April 26, 1837, soon after the organization of the township of Union, it was divided into four school districts, and that the assistance rendered by the state at this early date was not large will be plainly seen when we state that the apportionment of school moneys to all the schools in the township in 1838 was only $51.38. School District No. 2 included Union City, and the first teacher to have charge here after the organzation of the districts was Miss Ellen E. Hammond, daughter of Deacon Chester Hammond. This was a summer school and was taught in 1838. The teachers immediately following Miss Hammond were Henry Hammond and Miss Sarah Sargent, although it is creditably related that Miss Sargent was really the first teacher in Union City, she giving instruction during the winter of 1836-37, before the organization of districts. Certain it is, however, that

Miss Sargent taught a school during the winter of 1839-40 in the office of Justus Goodwin, on the county line.

The first schoolhouse was built in Union City in 1837, and the building was also used by the Methodist and Congregational societies on alternate Sundays. At about this time schools were also established in the rural districts surrounding Union City, and among the first was the one in the Lincoln district, south of town, where in the summer of 1838 a school was taught in a chamber of Caleb Lincoln's house, the school building being erected the following year.

The real development of the Union City schools began, however, with the erection of the present handsome school building on Ellen street. The town had grown so rapidly in population that in the early seventies it became evident that there must be additional room and facilities for the accommodation of the rapidly growing number of pupils. Accordingly the present building was completed in 1877 at a cost of about $25,000. It is a remarkably elegant and substantial building of stone and brick, three stories high, and the improvements made upon it each year have served to make it a model of convenience and utility. It has a fine public hall, a completely equipped laboratory, a well-selected library, and all the modern equipments and accessories, including water and electric lights upon every floor.

Excellent work is done in the lower grades and the high school is considered among the very best in this portion of the state. There are seven regular courses of study and such is their thoroughness and completeness that the high school has for years been on the approved list of the University of Michigan, graduates therefrom being admitted direct to the university without examination.

The graduates of the Union City High School during the different years from the first class in 1880 to the class of 1906 are named in following paragraphs. It seems just, however, to single out certain names from the various classes and mention the position which has been attained by the person in each case since he left the high school to begin the battle of life.

Of the class of 1880, C. E. Wisner is now a resident of Toledo and engaged in land development in the south. E. L. Moseley is an entomologist who has gained considerable prominence in his profession. W. H. Brumfield is at the head of a signal service bureau in the west. Of the class of 1884, Walter Groesbeck is a patent attorney at Washington, D. C.; G. H. Seymour is head of the banking business in Sherwood, and Delia Page is a teacher of deaf mutes in West Superior, Wisconsin.

Two well known representatives of the class of 1886 are Leon A. Johnson, present supervisor of Union township, and C. H. Lowell, connected with the Farmers National Bank of Union City. From the class of 1887 should be mentioned Edward Guernsey, a foreign buyer for Marshall Field and Company; and Mrs. Jennie (Walker) Spore, who is the sole founder and manager of the Union City Creamery, an enterprise which she has built up by her own business judgment and energy. From the class of 1888,

Herbert Johnson is a successful music teacher of Battle Creek, and Walter Lowell is in charge of a sugar plantation in the Hawaiian Islands.

In the class of 1889 were Carolyn L. Willard, now a well known concert pianist, associated with Madame Bloomfield Zeisler of Chicago; and Edwin Hayden, who fills the chair of sociology in the University of Missouri. Ray Burlingame of the class of 1890 is a druggist at Dowagiac. Of those who went out in 1892, R. W. Coddington is a superintendent of schools in Michigan, and Jessie Willard is a doctor of osteopathy in Chicago. Lulu Palmer, of 1893, is a teacher in one of the Wisconsin state normals. Of 1894, Leo Warren is superintendent of schools in North St. Paul, Minn.; Hubert Bell is superintendent of schools at Boyne City, Mich., and E. M. Chauncey is a physician at Girard. George Gaw, of the class of 1895, is cashier in an Ypsilanti bank, and his classmate, Ralph Morrill, is a physician in Lincoln, Neb., and on the faculty of a medical college in that city. Clayton Crandall and Carrie, of the class of 1896, are high school teachers, and many other of the graduates fill similar positions throughout this and adjoining states. Of the class of 1897, Arthur Barnes is superintendent of schools at Olivet and F. W. Ackerman is principal of the Union City schools, Leo L. Eddy is superintendent of the schools at Sherwood, and N. P. Olmsted is a minister. George Barnes, from the class of 1898, gained the high scholastic honor of a Rhodes scholarship at Oxford, England, and is now attending that university. H. H. Willard, of 1899, is on the faculty of the school of pharmacy of the University of Michigan, and A. H. Tower of the same class is a doctor at Centerville.

The graduates for the different years are:

1880—Elbert L. Page, A. Harshman Harrison, George E. Willitts, C. Edward Wisner, Lorenzo D. Cochrane, Edward L. Moseley, Willard H. Brumfield, William H. Bauer, Robert H. Baker, John D. H. Wallace, Jay P. Lee, Norris A. Cole, Ward C. Walker, Elma Lynn.

1881—Ida Southerland, Jennie Rowe, M. Ross Graham, Warren D. Converse.

1883—Nettie Doty.

1884—Myra McDonald, Walter Groesbeck, Erta Tuthill, George H. Seymour, Jennie Corbin, John Bishop, Edward Stafford, Doane Smith, Lydia Race, Eva Lester, Delia Page, Lida Nesbitt.

1885—Nellie Giltner, Nellie Lathrop, Rose Swartout, Sabrie Van Vleet, Hattie Johnson, Verona Smith, Lura Laverty.

1886—Leon A. Johnson, Minnie Van Camp, Cora D. Fulton, Charles H. Burton, Minnie Eddy, Jennie Chase, Charles H. Lowell.

1887—Edith Underwood, Hattie Blake, Nathan Rowe, Jessie Peck, Nanette Jeffery, Edward Guernsey, Stella Buell, Isaac J. Margeson, Fred Stafford, Bertha Sawin, Frank Cain, Robert McDonald, Jennie Walker.

1888—Herbert Johnson, Mary Stevens, Walter Lowell, Wylie Hubbard, Fred M. Hodge, Nettie Lee, Habey Haas, Mae Swartout, Ophelia Van Vleet, Maude Hubbard, Mattie Stratton, Nellie Thompson.

1889—Frances Russell, Carrie L. Willard, Edwin Hayden, Clarence Brace, Millie Simmons.

1890—E. May Thompson, Laurene Corbin, Mertis Wellman, Byrdie Gaw, Ray Burlingame, Claude Whitney, Daisy Buell, Georgia Smythe, Felia Matthews.

1891—L. Belle Watkins, Fred J. French, Frances C. Wilkins, Nellie Clark, Alta McCrary, V. D. Lee, Isabella Maxon, Myrtie Mitchell, Hannah Russell, Emma Merritt, Lois French.

1892—Ralph Waldo Coddington, Fred Hammond, Earl Hubbard, Thomas Cain, May Burlingame, Frank S. Mann, Edna Peck, Fannie Bailey, May I. Lowell, Jessie Willard, Sophia Page, Ella Gillett.

1893—Jessie Banford, Grace Smith, Grace Drumm, Mae Lee, Libbie Fitzgerald, Sereno B. Clark, Albert Miller, Lizzie Peck, Lulu Palmer, Earl Hayner.

1894—Hattie Wells, Georgia Bassett, Anna Melody, Leo Warren, Chauncey, Lina Merrill.

1895—Nettie Stevens, Ethel Kilbourn, Clara Page, Bertha Greenfield, Myrta Bartlett, Edna Case, George Gaw, Ralph Morrill, Lizzie Norton.

1896—Elmer Wilson, Winfred Pierce, Harry Kimball, Ora Hayner, Carrie Hurd, Miles Rider, Harry Wilcox, Frank Buell, Clayton Crandall.

1897—John L. Moore, Lillie Mitchell, Coral Johnson, J. C. Studley, Kittie Bell, Jennie Smith, Thomas Buell, Arthur Barnes, Simeon Bole, George Howard, Minnie Smith, Clarence Reynolds, J. Carl Gaw, John Truax, F. Ella Kilbourn, F. W. Ackerman, Marcella Burns, Roy McEwen, G. E. Ackerman, Carrie Saunders, Ethel Burnham, N. Perl Olmsted, Carle Smith, Nellie Strong, Henry Wells, Leo. L. Eddy, Alice Pierce.

1898—George Barnes, Gertrude Travis, Bertha Simons, Blaine Brown, Carrie Ward, Victor Crandall, Hettie Smith, Flora Banford, Lester Crandall, Earl Fuller, James Melody, Daisy Matteson, Beryl Knauss, Floyd Davis, Veva Bole, Grace Gaw, Lena Fox.

1899—Levi A. Geer, Cora E. Seymour, Hobart H. Willard, Ethel M. Kimball, Lottie Bell, Nellie M. Spencer, Leland H. Tower, J. Morris Smith, William H. Bruening, Fred H. Hass, Jessie R. Morrill, Bessie F. Hubbard.

1900—Clara L. Buell, Ora L. Smith, Fred S. Dunks, Erta B. Kimball, Mertie M. Hass, Harry M. Simmons, Courtney B. Aiken, Henrietta M. Knauss, Ervin A. Warsop.

1901—Mary L. Dibble, Grace R. Dunks, Daisy L. Eberhardt, Lura V. Eitniear, Nellie E. French, Jesse N. Hayner, William H. Melody, Nina E. Palmer, Amy Mortina Sweet, H. Harris Ward, Sherman Wilson.

1902—Dean S. Johnson, Ernest E. Baird, Mildred N. Wood, Elcy T. McCausey, Dean E. Shannon, Zella E. Merrifield, G. Belle Fisk, Lula Libhart, Dorr D. Buell, Hilda M. Bruening, Pauline G. Hawley, Claude L. Bullock, Maude E. Grill, Majorie Buell, Viva A. Spore.

1903—Bennett H. Ackerman, Franklin F. Holbrook, Iza S. Holbrook, Claude W. Johnson, Howard I. Ludwig, Homer R. Mallow, Harland A.

Johnson, Viletta B. Lovejoy, Jessie Wheeler, Roy S. Wheeler, Jesse C. Kimball, John C. Corbin, Roy G. Newman, Louise L. Lux.

1904—Mary L. McCausey, Mary Copeland, Glynn Buell, Hazel Bowen, Burr Collyer, Bessie Corbin, Thomas McCausey, May Clifford, Ray Warren, David Church, Lucia Drake.

1905—Petra Lundteigen, Edith V. Smith, Charlotte P. Carr, Aimee Palmer, Maude A. Knauss, Hazel V. Whitney, Ethel F. Pullman, Eva D. Lux, Ethel A. Johnson, Lynn E. Wood, Gladys Brown, Aaron W. Poole, Frank R. Corwin, Deo R. Parsons.

1906—Harry Clifford, Matt Corwin, Margaret Stitt, Don Nichols, Bessie Kilbourn, Emma Boyer, Carma Libhart, Vivian Baker.

Bronson Village Schools.

The first school in the county, taught by Columbia Lancaster at Bronson Prairie in the winter of 1830-31, has already been spoken of. This and several other schools, supported in a private way by several families cooperating in carrying them on, preceded the first public school on the prairie in the township, and this first public school was the beginning of what has become "the Public Schools of Bronson."

The "Bronson Public Schools," as a pamphlet, published for 1905-06 by the Board of Education, is entitled, are not schools in several buildings, nor are they schools free to pupils residing in the village only. They are schools in one building, and this building is the schoolhouse of a school district, including, besides the village, territory from one to two miles beyond it in all directions. The district bears today the designation, "District No. 1," the number indicating that it was the first district organized in the township. The schools carried on in this one building of the district are, the high school, the grammar or intermediate school and the primary school, the latter being more commnly spoken of as "grades" or "departments." The time of the entire course is twelve years, four years being given to each department. Graduates of the high school may be admitted to any of the Michigan State Normal colleges without examination.

This District No. 1 was certainly organized some time before 1839, probably in 1837. Its first school, the first public school of the township, was taught in a building on the ground where the Werner Bros. building now stands on Matteson street, south of Chicago street. Among the early teachers in this building were Miss Salona Pixley and Miss Maria Taggart. Mr. Loring Grant Jones, still living in the village, remembers attending school in this building. Later a schoolhouse was built a considerable distance to the east on a corner of the Chicago road and the road running south on the eastern boundary of the village. Here Miss Mary Ann Clark taught for a time. Mr. Jones remembers as other teachers also, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. "Dick" Daugherty and Mr. Homer Wright, a brother of Mr. P. P. Wright.

Population on the prairie increased and when the village stage arrived a union school was established. The report of the director on this union

school is illustrative not only of this particular school but in general of the status of most village schools at the time. The state superintendent of public instruction, in 1857, asked information concerning each of the union schools then in the state, and Jason Shepard, then director of the Bronson school district, in his reply dated January 13, 1858, gave the following categorical answers to the series of questions:

1st. Our school was established on the 4th of the present month. (January, 1858.)
2nd. The size of the site is one acre of land.
3rd. The schoolhouse is 33 by 43 feet on the ground, two stories high, rooms 12 feet in the clear, with recitation rooms in each story. Cost of the house, $2,500.
4th. The apparatus is small, consisting only of Mitchell's Outline Maps, costing $11.00. Number of volumes in library, 125.
5th. At present, there is but one department to our school; but on the first of April it is expected another will be added, in which the higher branches will be taught.
6th. We have one male and one female teacher—a gentleman and his lady—at a salary of $50 per month, for both.
7th. The average number of scholars in attendance is one hundred.
8th. The course of studies embraces Primary Geography, Philosophy, Algebra, Geometry and Astronomy.
9th. There have no students been fitted for higher schools.
10th. As far as I am acquainted the co-education of the sexes is advisable and I cannot but recommend it.
11th. The expenses of our school are at present met by rate-bill, but I think after our next annual meeting it will be free to scholars of our district.
12th. The cost of this system of schools I think no greater than that of the single district, while the advantages for advancement are much greater.
Our school and schoolhouse, although new and just commenced, has an influence among us that no one would be willing to part with. It has created a spirit of energy never felt among us before as well as a desire for advancement among parents and children. Where indifference has hitherto prevailed among our citizens, it is now asked, what shall be, and who will be first in, our next enterprise.
We hope to give a good account of our school as time advances, and that our reports hereafter may compare favorably with other schools.
Yours truly, JASON SHEPARD, *Director.*

The building described was of frame, and in 1878 a brick addition, two stories high, was constructed in front of the old building.

The Bronson school officers at the time of this writing are: William Scribner, president of Board of Education; William Bushnell, secretary; Jacob F. Werner, treasurer; Warren Boughton, James Davis, trustees. The teaching force are: Frank E. Robinson, superintendent; Miss Bertha Robinson, principal; Miss Iles, assistant principal; Miss Mernie Bailey, eighth grade; Miss Lucinda Bowen, second and third grades; Miss Della Osborn, third grade; Miss Florence Anderson, primary.

The following paragraphs name the graduates who in the years since 1887 have gone from the high school:

1887—Elison Weldon.

1888—Claire Russell, Guella Boughton (Parham), Edwin Powers, Florence Van Every.

1890—Edwin Moffit.

1891—Cora Washburn (Chapman), Nellie Hamilton.

1892—Della Wait (Butler), Nellie Ellis (Paul), Grace Douglas (Deane), Gula Albertson (Werner), Josie Jump, Anna Harris.



Bronson Public School

1893—Hattie Randall (Faust), Rose Jump (Staymen), Nan Hoskins (Rider), Gussie Van Fleet (Davis), Cora Ticknor, Burt Corey, Emma Russell (Coon), Ora Cockle (Clark), Grace Jones (Howe), Myrtle Van Anken, Rose Parham (Pfaff), Frank Douglas.

1895—George Davis, Burt Walker, Howard Horton.

1897—Mabel Earle, Lora Quear (Tinkham), Mabel Perrin, Christie Shaffmaster, Gertrude Baxter, Emma Wait, Gertie Bush (Chapman), Ina Fox.

1898—Estelle Blass.

1899—Loa Secor (Lindsey), Ethel Turner (Gibbs), Glenn Green, Ethel Latta, Fred Baxter, Margaret Cunningham.

1900—Eva Jones, Cornelius Lane, Peter Greenwald.

1901—Clara Squier, Stella Keyes (Nash), Clifford Carpenter, George Holcomb, Rose Davis.

1902—Theda Bailey, Audra Spitz, Josephine Burnell.

1903—Vera Himebaugh (Flanders), Jeanette Holmes, Ina Clark, Goldie Bush, Julia Tisdel, Cicero Holmes, Maude Stevenson, Oral Clark, Clyde Bushnell.

1904—Elwood Bushnell, Maude Taggart, Maude Hurford, Myra Ruggles, Lola Perrin, Willie Cook.

1905—Cass Scribner.

1906—Hazel Branyan, Edith DeWitt, Gatha Dorn, Kathryn Himebaugh, Myrtle White, Joy Shaffmaster, Clesson Bushnell, Charles Rich, Harold Bennett Clark.

SHERWOOD.

Sherwood's first school was the district school located on the angling road west of the present village. With increase of population following the establishment of the village in the seventies a school was established within the village. In the late eighties the schools were graded and placed upon a good standing by Mr. James Swain, now county commissioner of schools, at that time superintendent of the Sherwood schools. In 1894 the Sherwood College buildings were purchased and devoted to village school purposes. The structures are substantial and modern and occupy a commanding site. There are now the regular twelve grades, with four teachers, those for 1906-07 being Ray Locke, superintendent; Bessie Cogswell, grammar grades: Ethel Monteith, intermediate, and Bernice Willer, primary. The board of education consists of J. W. Finch, Dr. C. E. Nelthorpe, Frank Swain, Charles Hall and Dr. R. Fraser. The schools are on the approved list of a large number of colleges, graduates being admitted to these without examination.

The Sherwood High School has an alumni association of sixty members, which holds annual reunions. The graduates since 1892 are named as follows:

1892—May (Jackson) Stickney, J. A. Annis.

1893—Nellie (Thayer) Bower, Guy Thurston.

1894—Edna R. Locke, Amos Cross.

1895—Harry Wilcox, Wave (Locke) Wright, Frank French, Mamie (Banker) Hill.

1896—Grace Smith, Daisy (Collins) Clark, Florence Crocker, Hattie Blossom.

1897—Frank Thoms, Edw. Mowry, Jennie (Runyan) Lampman, Bernice Sargent, Adrian Sturgis, Nellie (Mowry) Cline, Leo R. French, Inez (Quinlan) French, Etta Mowry.

1898—Mamie (Hazen) Chipman, Gertie (Bartlett) Collins, Effie (Alger) Jones, Ray Hall.

1899—Glenn Cline, Clayton Selby, Josie Mowry, Robert Osborn, Guy L. Mowry, Nina Thurston.

1900—Lou (Sturgis) French, Earl Taylor, Ed. Sargent, Carson Fraser, Vern French, Ernest Cole, Margaret Kidney, Glenn Sipes, Blanche (Nelson) Bennett, Hazel Strickland, Hubert Thornton, Susie Davis.

1901—Ray E. Locke.

1902—Beulah Gwin, Gertrude Robinson, Myrtle Robinson, Eva Leatherberry.

1903—Blanch I. French, George E. Ladyman, Jesse E. Thornton.

1904—No graduates.

1905—Lloyd Warren, Lulu Smith, Katie Eddy, Bertha Mitchell.

1906—Alice Wattles, Lena Spencer.

CHAPTER XXII.

The State Public School.

In 1836 a company of charitably inclined ladies of Detroit organized the Protestant Orphan Asylum of that city. Governor Henry P. Baldwin was for some years a trustee of that institution and became considerably interested in its work. Following his election as governor in 1868 Governor Baldwin made a trip to all the state institutions and many of those of a public and private charitable nature in the various counties, and thoroughly informed himself of conditions which he would meet in the performance of his official duties. So impressed was he that a thorough and radical change should be made in certain lines that he dwelt upon them at length in his inaugural message and recommended that a commission be appointed to give to them a thorough investigation and report to the legislature of 1871. The commission appointed in accord with this resolution consisted of Hon. C. I. Walker, of Detroit, and Hon. F. H. Rankin, of Flint.

Largely because of his connection with the orphan asylum above mentioned Governor Baldwin was in position to see the child problem both from a humane and public policy, and his message, which became the general instructions of the commission, set up that problem clearly. A short quotation from the report of the commission will describe dependent child life as they found it in the county houses, the only home provided up to that time.

"Think of their surroundings; the raving of the maniac; the frightful contortions of the epileptic; the driveling and senseless sputtering of the idiot; the garrulous temper of the decrepit, neglected old age; the peevishness of the infirm; the accumulated filth of all these; then add the moral degeneracy of such as from idleness and dissipation seek a refuge from honest toil and you have a faint outline of the surroundings of these little boys and girls. This is home to them. Here their first and most enduring impressions of life are made. And is it any wonder that so large a percentage go from such surroundings to lives of idleness and crime and thus to propagate and perpetuate a pauper, dependent and depraved class for public support and maintenance?"

The commission found two hundred and twelve dependent children of sound mind and sound bodies in the county poor houses and strongly supported Governor Baldwin's recommendation that they be taken from these institutions and made wards of the state. They suggested three plans:

"1st. Placed by indenture directly in families; or

"2d. Placed in orphan asylums at the expense of the state; or

"3d. Committed to an institution like the State Primary School at Munson, Massachusetts."

When the report of this commission reached the legislature in 1871 it was referred to a joint committee from both houses, of which the late Hon. C. D. Randall, of Coldwater, then state senator from this district, was chairman. As its work progressed various members of the committee took up the questions presented and Mr. Randall was assigned to the child problem. All three of the plans suggested by the commission had adherents. Bills were introduced in the legislature and referred to the joint committee, favoring each. The Michigan Orphan Asylum, at Adrian, largely under the management of Aunt Laura Haviland, as she was generally known, was very persistent in its advocacy of the second of these plans.

It was most provident that the whole problem went into the hands of a man like Mr. Randall, who was then in the height of his successful business career, and that that gentleman gave to it the best of his business ability. Analyzing each proposition in turn, he formed the following conclusions: The first plan would doubtless have proved a failure, as Mr. Randall argued, "for several reasons. Families would seldom receive children directly from the poor houses. Many of these children have been neglected and need certain training before they can be successfully placed in homes. Unless carefully watched after being placed in homes, no matter how carefully the homes are selected, great injustice to the children must often result." His study of the orphan asylum plans as they have been worked out in New York and California, under the contract system, turned Mr. Randall against that plan. When he secured statistics of the general lack of success in active life by institutionally raised children he could not be won to that plan by the persistent Adrian lobbyists or anyone else. The special institution referred to in the third plan was more on the line of what the industrial schools of this state have since become, except that it was for both dependent and depraved children. Their union in one institution at once became a menace to the better class. From a union of all these Mr. Randall finally evolved a plan which he presented to the committee in two short sections:

"1st. The state assumes guardianship of all dependent children of sound mind and body between ten and sixteen years of age.

"2d. There shall be a state public school for these children connected with the common school system, to be their temporary educational home until they can be placed in family homes, the state to supervise them during minority."

Mr. Randall's ideas were unanimously endorsed by the joint committee, and he was instructed to draft a bill which he introduced on February 22. It passed both houses and was signed by Governor Bagley on April 17, 1871, and created the State Public School on substantially the same lines it has always followed—the first state institution of its kind in the world. After an experience of thirty-four years the greatest change from Mr. Randall's original plan is the reduction of the age limit at each end. Everyone believes

the admission of the babies is a good thing, but whether the limit should have been cut below sixteen years is a debatable problem.

As soon as the bill was passed Mr. Randall began a campaign to secure the institution for Coldwater. Jackson, Flint, Albion, Holly, Adrian, Brooklyn, Northville, Grand Haven, Plymouth, St. Johns, Lansing, North Lansing, Portland, Jonesville and Monroe also came out with bids for its location. The late Hon. Harvey Haynes proposed to Mr. Randall to take equal chances and offer the board of location the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars if the school should be located here. On April 19, 1872, John J. Bagley (afterward governor), secretary of the commission, wrote Mr. Randall, in behalf of the commission, offering to locate here if the city would donate the Haynes tract and seven acres east of it, in all twenty-seven acres, and give bonds to pay into the treasury of the institution five thousand dollars per year for five years. It took a lot of hard work, but the funds were secured and the offer accepted.

The State Board of Corrections and Charities was another outgrowth of Governor Baldwin's message and the commission above referred to. By its provisions the Governor appointed an agent of this board in each county of the state. Among his duties this officer is to constantly search for suitable homes for dependent children in his county, and is the legal guardian of children from the State Public School during their indenture into homes in his county. The legislature has since provided for a state agent who travels from county to county assisting county agents and inspiring them to do good work. The work of the school has been to reduce the per capita of dependent children of the state to a very large extent, while the population has more than doubled. The institution opened in 1874. During that year one hundred and thirteen boys and forty-seven girls were received and cared for, a total of one hundred and sixty. During the school year of 1903-04 there were ninety-eight boys and eighty-one girls received, a total of one hundred and seventy-nine. The total number of boys received up to the close of the year 1903-04 was three thousand five hundred and forty-two, and the total number of girls one thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight; total number of children, five thousand four hundred and eighty to the close of that fiscal year, which is the last published report of the institution.

From a table in the last monthly report of the clerk of the institution to the board the following figures will be of interest, showing the disposition of all children since the school opened.

Received since school opened in May, 1874		5790
In families on indenture first of the month	1119	
In families on indenture became operative during month	28	
In families on trial	50	
Placed in families and residence unknown for over a year	10	
Total from whom reports are to be obtained	1207	

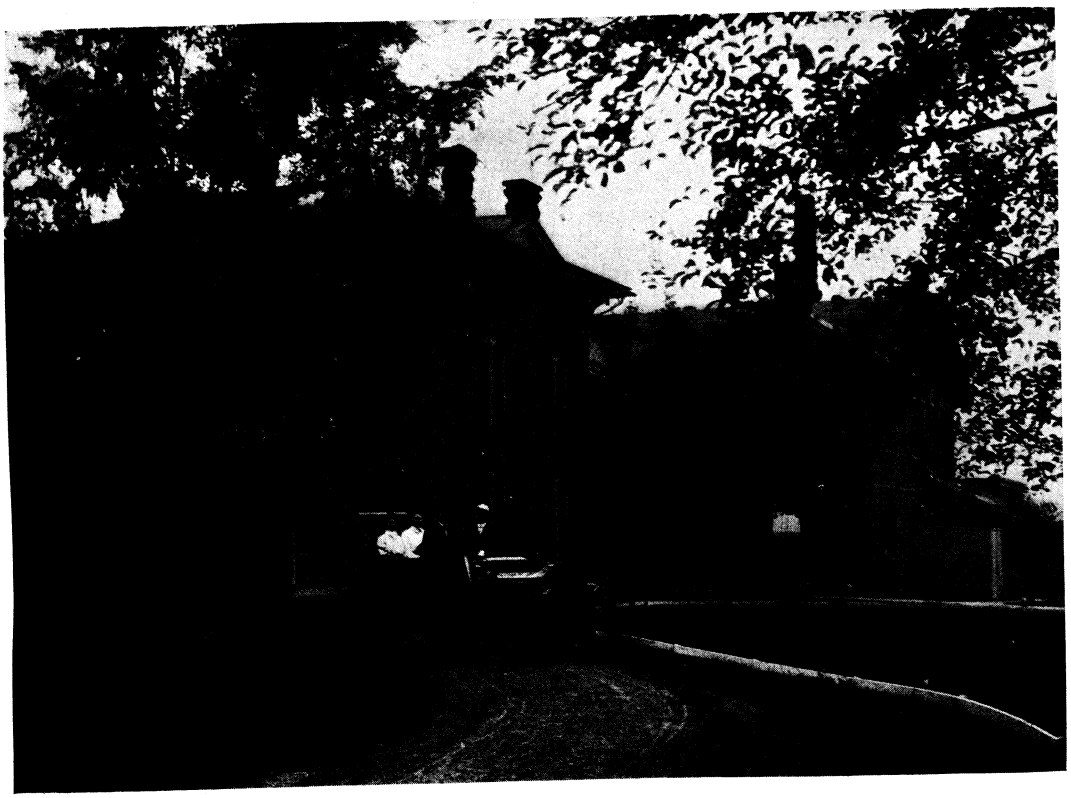
Remaining in the institution at this date	172	
Total present wards of the school	1379	
Returned to counties by order of the board	749	
Died in families and in school	227	
Adopted by proceedings in the probate courts	687	
Have become of legal age	360	
Girls married	186	
Have been restored to parents	589	
Have become self-supporting	1613	
Total	5790	5790

Of the children received up to the last published report 5,190 have been white, 269 colored and 21 Indian; 1,289 were American born, 1,067 foreign born and 3,124 nationality unknown; 384 were orphans, 1,069 half orphans, 2,667 both parents living, 360 unknown parentage. The average time of residence at the school for all children has been 4.05 months. The success of the plan is evidenced by the fact that of all the children indentured into homes 3,017 have had to be indentured but once, and 800 were successfully placed at the second trial. When it is remembered that misfits as to disposition are more conducive to lack of success both as to the home and the child than any other cause, this record is remarkable. Of the 854 children visited in homes by the state agent in the year previous to his last report he summarized 524 as "doing well," 223 as "doing fairly well" and only 36 as "doing poorly," and this was only five per cent of those visited.

While the maintenance of children in orphan asylums costs other states from fifty to one hundred dollars per year for each child, the large number who are successfully indentured into good homes by the "Michigan plan" as it is generally known, has reduced the average expense to the state per child from year to year to less than twenty-eight dollars, and the "Michigan plan" places children in that best of all places for their successful growth to the ideal manhood and womanhood, the homes of its people.

There are several things which have been factors in the success of the State Public School. Among them has been the careful and efficient management of its various superintendents. In turn they have been Zelotus Truesdell, Lyman P. Alden, John N. Foster, Wesley Sears, Chancy F. Newkirk, W. H. Wieand, A. N. Woodruff, A. J. Murray, John B. Montgomery. The latter gentleman has held the position since December 15, 1897. The present board of control are Governor Fred M. Warner, ex-officio; Frank M. Stewart, Hillsdale; John D. Shull, Tecumseh; and Norman A. Reynolds, Coldwater.

Of course, there have been changes since the school started. The original plot of twenty-seven acres has gradually expanded to one hundred and sixty acres. The buildings now include a fine administration building, chapel and dining room, a commodious school building, nine cottages, hospital, power house, barns, laundry, etc. The last invoice of state property at



Branch County Infirmary

the institution placed the buildings at $159,111; the steam heating plant, etc., at $25,000; the land at $26,000, and the whole outfit at $259,950.

Among the recent changes is the admission of babies, which has now been done for nearly five years, at first only in a limited way, but of late taking all that have come. The experiment has been entirely successful. Instead of these waifs being promiscuously given away and drifting to no one knows where, they are now carefully cared for and their interests properly guarded. Children of these institutions have no taint upon them, they are simply dependent. Many of them have gone out to win positions of trust and honor, and several are leading citizens in various state circles.

THE BRANCH COUNTY INFIRMARY for dependent people, after an existence of nearly forty years, stands today as a monument to the wisdom and sagacity of the state legislators of the early sixties, who enacted the laws providing for its establishment and maintenance.

Michigan has long been noted for her charitable institutions, but probably no public institution has been productive of more genuine good than this Branch county infirmary for the poor and distressed people of our county.

The institution is located just north of the city on the Marshall road. A fine farm of one hundred and forty acres admirably managed provides a goodly share of the table supplies, while supporting a fine herd of Jersey and Durham cattle from which is obtained the large amount of milk and butter necessary in an institution of this kind. Mr. George E. Burdick, the keeper, manages to turn over to the treasurer from six to twelve hundred dollars each year, for products taken from the farm. The main building is a large three-story brick structure of forty rooms and admirably constructed for the purpose intended. The arrangements are convenient and grounds beautiful.

The main building contains the superintendent's office and keeper's private apartments. On the first floor are the inmates' dining-rooms, pantries, sitting rooms, one large kitchen, supplied with large range and steam cookers. One large room with six beds is expressly for the old ladies that are not able to go to the second floors; second and third floors are arranged as dormatories, while the basement is utilized as store rooms for the large amount of needed supplies. At convenient points upon the grounds are the hospital, power house, laundry, vegetable cellar and many other buildings necessary for the management of an institution of this kind.

The law provides for the admission of inmates to the institution on the certificate of one of the superintendents of the poor, to be issued only to dependent people who have no one to care for them. Since the establishment of the infirmary in 1860 over two thousand persons have been received and cared for; there are, on an average, forty inmates. A physician is hired by the year, Dr. Legg, of Coldwater, being the present physician. The inmates are well looked after, comfortably clothed and fed on good wholesome food. All beds throughout the institution are iron with good springs and mattresses and plenty of bedding. Those that are able to work are furnished with such employment as he or she is able to perform.

The main building and hospitals are heated by steam. An electric lighting plant has just been installed, which adds to the convenience and safety; also three fire escapes on the main building.

The laundry is thoroughly equipped with all modern machinery. The plant has its own water works and sewerage, and every attention is paid to sanitary measures.

Devotional exercises are conducted once a month by the W. C. T. U. and are looked forward to with a great deal of interest by the inmates. The holidays are always observed in due form. The infirmary is in direct charge of a board of superintendents. The present board are B. F. Rolph, Coldwater; D. W. Dodge, Union City, and Dr. E. Blackman, of Quincy. The keeper and matron, Mr. and Mrs. George E. Burdick, have complete management and have as assistants in their work two engineers, one farm hand and two cooks. Institutions of this kind are being looked after more carefully than in the past, their development and management are increasing year by year, so that they are now ranking with state and other large institutions of the day.

CHAPTER XXIII.

LIBRARIES—ACTIVITY IN LITERATURE, MUSIC, ART.

The library movement in this county may be said to have had its practical beginning in connection with the schools, there being provisions for the establishment of school libraries in the first school legislation. The pioneer conception of a school library was, like most things of that time, primitive and crude. It is related that the citizens of one district in the county set aside *five dollars* to "establish" a library and an equal amount for the purchase of a suitable case in which to keep the books. Only ten dollars each year, in fact, could by law be set aside for a library. This was, of course, strictly a school library, and as such a part of school apparatus; it would hardly come under the consideration of this chapter.

Later the law was enacted providing that a township might tax itself to maintain a township library. Union City has a township library which as yet provides all the library facilities to be found in that village except the school libraries. In some villages of the state the township library is in a flourishing condition, but as a rule the township library does not fill the place that the makers of the law proposed.

BRONSON.

Bronson has a township library which has become, largely through the efforts of the ladies of the village, an institution worthy of the name. "The Free Public Library of Bronson" had its beginning in a "Ladies' Library Association," of which, in the catalogue of 1901, the following are named as members: Mrs. Mary Powers Gillam (nee Shepard), Mrs. Nellie Corey, Mrs. Warren Byrns, Mrs. J. Decatur Driggs (nee Flanders), and Mrs. E. C. Stevens and others. The association was begun about 1880, and a reorganization and change of name occurred in 1888. Mrs. Corey was the first librarian. In 1901 a catalogue was printed, with an ordinary sized octavo page of seventy-two pages. Previous to this the catalogue was printed on both sides of large cards about 12 by 16 inches. The number of volumes in the Bronson library in 1901 was about 2800. The library is located in the town hall of Bronson township, and, as stated, is a township and not a village library. It is open every Saturday from 2 to 5 p. m., and also in the evening. Mr. Frank Keyes, Miss Louise Stevens, Miss Helen Powers, Mrs. Mary Akers have been librarians, and the librarian since April 1, 1901, has been Mrs. Josephine (Burnell) Green. The board of trustees in 1901 were Henry P. Mowry, John R. Bonney, Vinton H. Shaw, Clinton Himebaugh, John D. Schurtz, Nathaniel L. Holmes.

Ladies' Library Association of Quincy.

About eight years ago Miss Frey, a teacher in the public schools, suggested the idea which was worked out and resulted in the organization of the Ladies' Library Association. In January, 1898, the ladies of the village held a social at which each one contributed one volume for the nucleus of the library, and since then the members, who now number about seventy-five, have contributed an annual due of fifty cents, and besides have given entertainments of various kinds to raise revenue. A small amount is also derived from the five-cent fee charged each outsider who takes a book.

There is no question of the success of the association's efforts. In almost every case the numerous Carnegie and other public libraries of the country have started from the nucleus established by a local association similar to that in Quincy, and the work now being done by the ladies of Quincy will bear fruit through all the future years. The library now contains 750 volumes, mostly fiction. Room for the books was first furnished by Mr. W. H. Lockerby, they were next kept for a time in rented quarters, until the State Bank donated a room in the rear of their building, where the collection is now located.

Mrs. M. S. Segur has been president of the association since its inception. Mrs. Rodney Twadell was the first vice president, Mrs. Charles Houghtaling being her successor and the present occupant of the office. Mrs. Walton Barnes is secretary, and Mrs. W. H. Lockerby treasurer. The first librarian was Mrs. E. C. Dove, then Mrs. R. D. Rawson, and Mrs. Segur at present acts in that capacity.

Coldwater Public Library.

The history of the Coldwater Library, which as an object of civic pride deserves to rank first among the city's institutions since few cities of the size anywhere in the country have larger and better equipped libraries, illustrates a praiseworthy combination of associate enterprise, of individual liberality and municipal public spirit.

The history of the Coldwater library goes back forty years, to an effort of the ladies of the city to conduct a lecture course. Money for this purpose was raised to the amount of five hundred dollars by a series of home entertainments. The public lecture movement having by that time lost favor, the lecture association, in 1869, resolved itself into a Ladies' Library Association. The charter members of this association were: Margaret L. Powers, Marietta K. Loveridge, Georgiana L. Cutter, Emeline Barber, Mary A. Wade, Mariet Smith, Harriet D. Morgan, Mary C. Champion, Mary Shipman, Alma Lewis, Alice C. Randall, Lizzie P. Woodward, Ardessa Crippen, Helen L. Lanphere, Harriet L. Mockridge, Olivia Safford, Josephine P. McGowan, Adeline M. Wing, Sallie G. Nichols, Mary A. Rose, Ann Van Valkenburgh. These may be considered the founders of the public library in Coldwater.

Besides the money which had accumulated from the lecture movement, the city was canvassed for subscriptions to annual memberships in the library

association, and twenty-three life memberships were also sold at thirty dollars each. This gave the association an original capital of twelve hundred and fifty dollars.

Fifteen hundred dollars were expended during the first year for books, and by the end of 1870 there were twelve hundred volumes in the library. The first library quarters were the parlors of the late Dr. Beach's home on East Chicago street, which he donated to the association. In 1874 he presented the association with a building in the rear of his dwelling and a five-year lease on the ground. Several hundred dollars were spent in making the building convenient for its purpose. Thus, by 1880, the Ladies' Library Association of Coldwater was in a flourishing condition, having a library of two thousand volumes, a steady membership and having been untaxed by rent and other heavy expenses.

Besides the ladies' library, there was a school library of about a thousand volumes. This had accumulated in regular course from school tax devoted to that purpose, and the books were kept in the schoolhouses.

In March, 1880, the Coldwater city council, in accordance with an act of the legislature providing that public libraries might be organized and maintained by townships and municipalities, adopted a resolution providing for the establishment of a city library, the same to be free to all citizens, and to be in charge of a library board of nine citizens, who were to have complete control of the library. The act of the city council was part of the general plan for a combination and enlargement of the city's library facilities. The legislature passed a special law allowing the school library to be transferred to the city library, and the Ladies' Association also transferred their property and privileges to the public library, thereby losing their existence through integration with a larger institution. The consolidation of the two libraries was effected, and when the first library board took charge the history of the present library began.

There was an excellent nucleus of books, but otherwise the growth of the library to its present proportions has taken place since the creation of the public library in 1880. Almost at the beginning of its existence the board procured the fine site on East Chicago street just east of the public square, but there were no funds with which to erect a suitable building, and a special appropriation of public credit for that purpose was out of the question. The library had outgrown its quarters, and its usefulness was seriously impaired. In March, 1885, the number of volumes had increased to 5,688, and the value of the institution depended on the kind of building that should shelter it.

The public spirit of a successful business man could find no better expression and monument than in such a structure as the Edwin R. Clarke Library Building. The late Edwin R. Clarke came to Coldwater in 1850, so that he belongs among the pioneers, and in that year established the drug business on the corner of Chicago and Monroe streets which, at the same location, has been increased and has been successfully conducted to the present time. Mr. Clarke's ability and success as a merchant were equalled by his interest in his

city. He did not give recklessly without thought of results; but exercised the same care in that direction which had made his business prosperous. With mature forethought, therefore, he offered to build a home for the Coldwater public library, and at the same time submitted plans of the building which he proposed to erect. His generous offer was accepted. The building was begun in the summer of 1886, and on December 29, 1886, the formal presentation and dedication were celebrated in the Tibbits opera house. It is proper to quote the words with which Mr. Clarke presented the building to the city: "When I first came to Michigan," he said, "the country was new. The people generally were in moderate circumstances, and books and reading matter were not plentiful. I well remember the great privilege it seemed and the kindness I felt it to be when some of those early settlers gave me access to, and the use of, their limited collection of books. Recollections of those early days and the desire to express the friendship I feel toward a community in which I have lived so long, induced me to offer to build for you a library building."

The library is supported by the fines which formerly went to the school library and also a half-mill tax on city property. From six thousand volumes in 1885 the main library floor is now overcrowded with sixteen thousand volumes, and there are hundreds of documents and other material stored in the lecture room on the second floor. The most notable single addition was the private library of the late H. C. Lewis. Among the three thousand volumes of the collection are many costly and valuable works on art. Mr. Lewis was also a connoisseur in fine bindings, and the examples which he gathered at much cost of money and effort are also preserved in the library.

Miss Mary A. Eddy, who had been for some time librarian of the Ladies' Association, was appointed librarian of the public library July 6, 1881. She was succeeded by Miss Florence M. Holmes, who has held the position of librarian since 1895. The usefulness of the library to the public has been largely due to their capable and intelligent direction. The board of directors at this writing are the following: Z. G. Osborn, president; C. U. Champion, vice president; H. H. Barlow, secretary; and Mrs. G. Van Valkenburgh, M. W. Wimer, Mrs. Margaret U. Clarke, Mrs. Alma M. Cunningham, William Wilson and Elmer E. Palmer.

Activity in Literature, Art and Music.

An institution that for a number of years did much to foster an interest and taste in the best works of art was the Lewis Art Gallery, which was established by the late H. C. Lewis some time during the sixties. The collection had been gathered during the sojourn of Mr. Lewis and his wife abroad, especially in Italy, and consisted of a number of originals and copies of well known works of the ancient and modern schools. To afford proper quarters for this collection Mr. Lewis erected, just west of his residence, a gallery, which is the south portion of the present Y. M. C. A. building; and when the collection continued to grow, he built an addition, forty by forty feet, on the north side of the first gallery. Some time after the death of Mr.

Lewis the collection of paintings was removed to Ann Arbor, having been bequeathed to the State University. The Lewis Art Gallery building was afterwards remodeled to some extent and has since served as the home of the Y. M. C. A.

Writers, Artists and Musical Organizations.

The number of individuals belonging to Branch county who have been original producers in the fields of literature and the fine arts cannot be said to be large. And yet comparison with other communities might reveal it as a fact, that in proportion to its population its number of producers in these fields is as high as the average in our state or in the entire country. There are not many Branch county people who have written books, or painted fine pictures, or composed music, or chiseled works of sculpture, or designed artistic structures as architects. The large cities with their wealth and social stimulus and culture draw to themselves the talented and ambitious individuals. Branch county has only one city, and that with a population only a little more than 6,000. The county has no college, while Hillsdale on the east of it has Hillsdale College, Calhoun on the north has Albion College, and Kalamazoo cornering on the northwest has its Kalamazoo College. The three counties, Branch, St. Joseph, and Cass, so similar in many respects, as we have noted, are alike also in this, that no one of them has the scholarship and culture of a college within its borders.

The classes of persons in every community who are naturally most inclined to write out their thoughts and have them printed for others to read are its editors, ministers, lawyers, physicians and teachers. Besides these, every American community as large as a county is likely to have individuals in it who make writing for the reading world a part of their work. Branch county has persons in it belonging to every one of these classes, whose writing has been printed and has gone into the reading matter of the people of the county or of a wider public.

Of course the class who give the most reading matter to the public are the editors of the newspapers. From the very beginning Branch county has had men among the editors of its papers, who, besides giving to the people a large and well arranged amount of local news, have done strong, thoughtful, and effective editorial writing, men too whose work has something of real literary quality in it. The names of most of these editorial writers have been mentioned already in treating of the press of the county, but a sketch of its literary activities requires allusion at least also here to the editors as a class, if not some particular mention of persons.

First in the list of editors who have done large and influential work in the county in putting their thought into language stands the name of Albert Chandler. For eight years from April 6, 1841, he wrote something every week in the Coldwater *Sentinel* that the people of the county read. To record the beginning, however, of this kind of literary production in the county requires that we go back four years farther to the year 1837 and into the extinct little village of Branch. There Charles P. West put his own editorials

into the Michigan *Star* with now and then a brighter and keener article from the pen of his sister, Miss Laura West. Between 1850 and 1860 Elihu B. Pond, H. B. Stillman, Seth W. Driggs, Col. H. C. Gilbert, Judge John H. Gray, and his son, John H. Gray, Jr., sent from Coldwater week by week the product of their pens, a product exhibiting no low literary quality. During the next decade, 1860 to 1870, Coldwater still continued to do almost the entire editorial writing done in the county. The men who did it were: Jonas H. McGowan, C. P. Benton, F. V. Smith, W. G. Moore, Major David J. Easton, P. P. Nichols, and Frank L. Skeels.

The man who ranks as the Nestor of Branch county editors, both by reason of his long service and the large amount and high character of his work, is Abram J. Aldrich. Beginning with the weekly in 1873 and going on from 1875 with a semi-weekly, for twenty years continuously he put his thought week by week upon the pages of his paper. Behind his thought was the scholarship of a university graduate, a wide range of reading, and high moral ideals. His thought had substance, insight, breadth and moral earnestness, and his language had vigor and aptness of phrase. The following extract from his editorial in the first number of the *Semi-Weekly Republican*, issued August 3, 1875, is typical of the man and his paper, and is an historical example of the kind of literature produced by a Branch county man and read by Branch county people for twenty years. The editorial was headed, "Independent Journalism," and contained the following: "We hear more about independent journalism in these days than ever before. It is said that one with God is a majority. True. But oftentimes that one who imagines himself on God's side may be mistaken; and, at all events, he most generally finds the majority of voters against him when it comes to an election. * * * At this time in our political history we are attaining the point where but two parties exist. While the editor must choose the fold to which he shall belong, it is not his duty to blindly accept the following of any person who may for the nonce be the recognized party leader. The *Republican* has always been and still continues, the advocate of Republican principles."

In the years following 1870, besides by Mr. Aldrich, editorial writing has been done in Coldwater by Jefferson S. Conover, Calvin J. Thorpe, Henry C. Bailey and his son, Willis C. Bailey, S. H. Egabroad, Frederic Martin Townsend, Major George H. Turner, Charles S. Newell, John S. Evans, Simon B. Kitchel and his son, Horace Kitchel. The writings of C. J. Thorpe were characterized by scholarship, scientific ideas and literary form; those of Major Turner by historical and classical allusion and by rhetorical and even poetical style. About 1870 the villages of the county too began creating a good quality of literary product in their local papers. In 1869 David J. Easton left the sanctum of the *Republican* in Coldwater and set up that of the *Register* in Union City, where he went on to the end of his long and influential editorial career. In 1878 Colonel Cornelius VanRennselaer Pond began printing his vigorous English in the Quincy *Herald*. In 1880 the Bronson *Journal* began. Mr. C. W. Owen was at one time editor of that

paper; later he did editorial work in Coldwater, and afterwards he made the Quincy *Herald* the medium of his ideas.

In addition to the strictly editorial literature contained in the press of the county, its editors have always opened their columns generously to others. The papers of the county during the past forty years thus show on their pages sermons of resident ministers, and well written articles on varied subjects by the thinking, educated men and women of the county. Two persons especially have done a large amount of this work in the county papers during the past fifteen years, Mr. C. J. Thorpe and Mr. Charles W. Bennett, the former on economic and philological subjects, the latter on geological and theological.

Besides the literary product that has thus been printed week by week upon the pages of its papers, books have been written by some of the natives and residents of the county. We name the following in this connection: Mrs. Fannie E. Newberry, Mrs. Celia Parker Woolley, Miss Ida Dandridge Bennett, Mr. Allen Dyer Shaffmaster, Rev. Robert W. Van Schoick, D. D., Mrs. Clara Dillingham Pierson, and Miss Frances Alice Kellor.

Mrs. Newberry, Miss Bennett, and Mr. Schaffmaster have resided in the county for years, and these, with Dr. Van Schoick, wrote their books while residents of the county. The parents of Mrs. Woolley have been residents of the county continuously since 1848. Though she herself was born in Toledo, O., nearly all her early life was spent in Coldwater and her education was received there. Mrs. Pierson and Miss Kellor were born in Coldwater and there grew to adult years.

In the Coldwater *Semi-Weekly Republican* of April 4, 1876, there is printed upon the first page a story with this heading: "Written for the *Republican*. 'A Lordly Soul,' by Fannie E. Newberry." In 1891 Mrs. Newberry began putting her work into book form. Since then she has written the following fifteen volumes: "The Impress of a Gentlewoman," "Brian's Home," "Comrades," "Transplanted," "The Odd One," "Sara: A Princess," "All Aboard," "House of Hollister," "Everyday Honor," "The Wrestler of Philippi," "Strange Conditions," "A Son's Victory," "Bubbles," "Not for Profit," "Joyce's Investment."

Miss Ida Bennett has been writing regularly for several magazines since 1895. Among them are: *The Woman's Home Companion, American Homes and Gardens, Indoors and Out, Town and Country, Ladies' Home Journal,* and *Suburban Life.* In 1893 she wrote "The Flower Garden, A Handbook of Practical Garden Lore," which was published by McClure, Phillips & Co., of New York, as a book of 282 pages with numerous illustrations.

Mr. Shaffmaster's home is in Bronson, where he is editor of the Bronson *Journal.* In 1904 he prepared for the press "Hunting in the Land of Hiawatha, or the Hunting Trips of an Editor." It made a volume of 220 pages with 40 illustrations as published by M. A. Donohue & Co. of Chicago.

Rev. Dr. Van Schoick while a resident of Coldwater attended the World's Fourth Sunday School Convention in Jerusalem in 1904. In con-

nection with his journey he wrote articles or letters, which were first printed in the Coldwater *Reporter* and afterward published in book form by Eaton & Mains, making a book of 253 pages with 25 illustrations.

Branch county people have noted with interest and with allowable pride the work that has been done and the books that have been written by Mrs. Woolley in Chicago, Mrs. Pierson in Stanton, Mich., and Miss Kellor in New York City, and they may claim some share of influence in originating and developing the abilities which have already wrought such results. As to their literary productions we record the following: Mrs. Woolley wrote in 1897 "Rachel Armstrong, or Love and Theology," in 1889 "A Girl Graduate," in 1892 "Roger Hunt." Mrs. Pierson since 1897 has written and published through E. P. Dutton & Co. of New York, ten volumes: "Among the Meadow People," "Among the Forest People," "Among the Farmyard People," "Among the Pond People," "Among the Night People," "Notebook of an Adopted Mother," "Dooryard Stories," "Tales of a Poultry Farm," "Three Little Millers," and the "Millers of Pencroft." Miss Kellor wrote in 1901 "Experimental Sociology, Descriptive and Analytical," which was published by the Macmillan Company, and in 1904 "Out of Work, a Study of Employment Agencies," published by G. P. Putnams' Sons.

Early in 1876 there was in Coldwater "The Woman's Club," which studied especially United States history in preparation for the interests and observances of the Centennial year. In 1892 and 1893, largely through the suggestion and direction of the librarian of the Coldwater Public Library, Miss Mary A. Eddy, the Columbian Woman's Club was organized, dividing itself into several "circles." This club has continued its existence and connected itself with the Michigan Federation.

The Twentieth Century Club of Coldwater was organized and incorporated April 20, 1892. Its object was stated to be "intellectual, scientific and esthetic culture." The membership has been composed of men and women and has been limited to forty in number. It has regularly held its meetings every two weeks in each year between Oct. 1 and June 15. The presidents of the club have been: Caleb D. Randall, George H. Turner, ex-Governor Cyrus G. Luce, and Milton W. Wimer. In Batavia township the Bay View Reading Club has been active for more than ten years.

The fortnightly Musical Club of Coldwater is a strong organization of the women of the city. The choirs of the several churches with their organists have done much to promote musical culture everywhere in the county. George W. Klock has been an organist and teacher of music in Coldwater for more than twenty-five years. For a still longer time Dr. William L. Andrews was a choir leader in the city, and by his enthusiasm and unselfish devotion to musical work probably did more than any other one man in the county in creating a popular interest in music.

The Lewis Art Gallery, already spoken of, left some of its works in Coldwater and thus has continued somewhat to help maintain an interest in painting and sculpture. Coldwater has no sculptural nor architectural monument to its soldiers of the Civil war. In this regard Quincy and Union City

excel the county seat, each having erected a worthy monument to its heroes of 1861-65. The most imposing building in the county is the county court-house. One of Coldwater's own citizens was the architect of this edifice, Mr. Marcellus H. Parker. Mr. Parker also designed the main building and five cottages of the State Public School, the Lewis Art Gallery, the Baptist church, and the Edwin R. Clarke Public Library building.

CHAPTER XXIV.

RELIGION AND CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS.

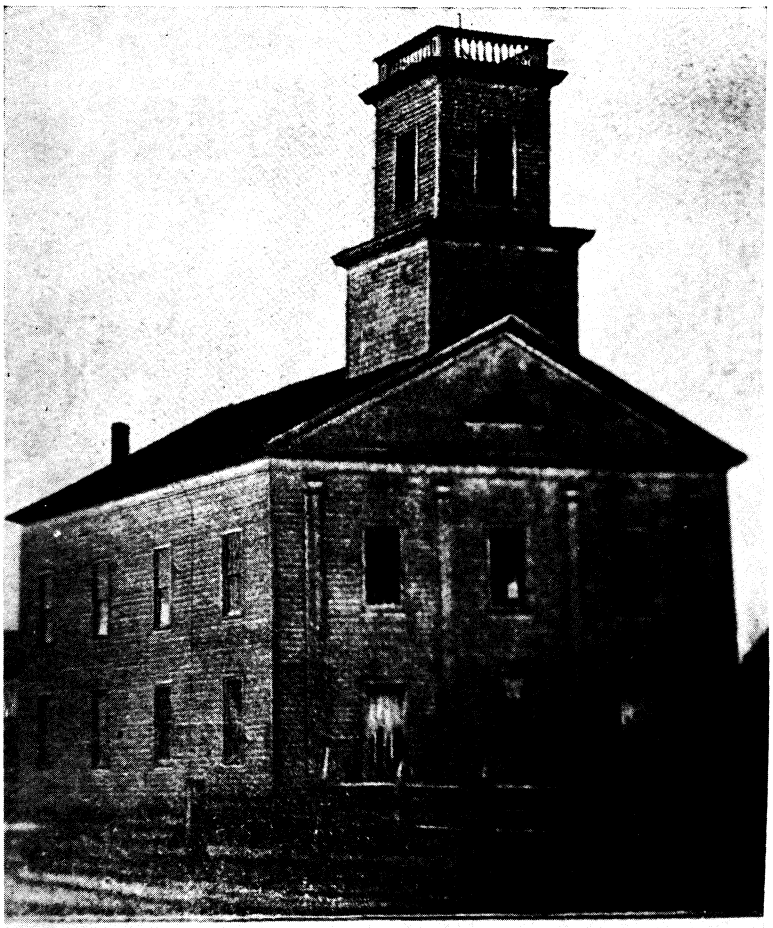
Religion and its institutions and organizations have been a prominent part of mankind's life everywhere in historic time. The religion of the people of the United States is, of course, in general the Christian religion in distinction from Mohammedanism and Buddhism. Of the three great forms of Christianity, the Roman, the Greek and the Protestant, only the two, the Roman and the Protestant, have entered in any organized form into the life of the people of Branch county.

Religious feeling and thought express themselves most conspicuously in church organizations and church activity. We shall endeavor to give a brief account of the church organizations in the county in which the Protestant and Roman Catholic belief of its people has been embodied. Protestantism in its history has differentiated itself into its well known denominations, having in every region their local churches, in one or both senses of the word church, that is, a social organization only, or a social organization and a building in which it carries on its activities. We shall group together all the churches in the county connected with each denomination, following mainly the chronological order in their treatment.

There have always been in the churches of the county the forms of church activity common in the several denominations throughout the world. Every seventh day, Sunday or Saturday, has been a day for gathering of men, women and children in their church buildings for their various exercises of "worship," or "divine service," and for Sunday-schools in which the Bible and Christian life and history have been studied and taught. One or more evenings of the week have been used for prayer and conference meetings, for improvement in church music, for study of the Bible and Christianity and for social fellowship. The church buildings have thus been centers in which a large amount of associative activity has been carried on, producing a large amount of thought, feeling, determination, and action of the kind commonly spoken of as religious, moral, ethical and spiritual. At the same time all this activity and all these forms of life have been essentially social, and have exerted a continuous and powerful influence in many ways upon the life of the people of our county.

Methodist Episcopal Churches.

The first denomination to begin an organized church life in the county was the Methodist Episcopal. In Allen Tibbits' log house in Coldwater, June 19, 1832, Rev. E. H. Pilcher, of the Tecumseh circuit, organized the first



OLD METHODIST CHURCH.

Coldwater, built 1836-38

Methodist class in Branch county, its charter membership being Allen Tibbits, who was also the local preacher; Caroline M. Tibbits, his wife; Joseph Hanchett and wife Nancy, and Amelia Harrison. These, the founders of Coldwater village, were likewise the founders of Methodism in the county. Allen Tibbits preached the first sermon in his log house in the month of July following. Early Methodism in Coldwater was represented by such well known families as the Crippens, Dr. W. B. Sprague, Dr. D. Littlefield, Thomas Daugherty, James Fisk and Rev. Francis Smith.

The class was a mission until 1836, when it became a self-supporting circuit, and in June, 1838, the first church building, a wooden structure, and standing on the site of the present Methodist church on North Marshall street, was dedicated. This served as the church home for thirty years and is illustrated on another page. January 26, 1869, Rev. F. M. Eddy dedicated the present brick church, which, with an addition constructed in 1878, has served the Methodist congregation until the present time. The building as first constructed cost $25,000. In 1878 the pipe organ was installed, this being the gift of Alonzo Waterman and his daughters, Mrs. Mary C. Fenn and Miss Allie A. Waterman.

Beginning with the Rev. Allen Tibbits, some of the best known pastors who have served this church were: William Sprague, Peter Sabin, in 1836; Benjamin Sabin, I. Cogshall, in 1875-6, and in more recent years J. Q. Buell, A. P. Moors, D. F. Barnes, D. D., H. M. Joy, W. A. Hunsberger, James Hamilton, Wm. Denman, A. M. Goold, W. L. Barth, W. I. Cogshall, Wm. P. French, L. E. Lennox, and F. M. Chapman, D. D.

Methodist Episcopal Church, Quincy.

The first Methodist class at Quincy was formed in 1836 at the home of the pioneer, John Broughton. He and his wife, Bartholomew Hewitt and wife, Rev. James Clizbe and wife, and Dr. Berry composed the members of this class. The ministers were supplied from the Coldwater charge until 1843, and after that they came from the Litchfield circuit. Rev. B. N. Sheldon, whose widow was the author of the historical paper from which these facts are taken, was the first resident minister at Quincy, coming about 1853. It was through his efforts that the first church edifice was erected and dedicated on January 1, 1855. In the summer of 1869 the church was entirely rebuilt and refurnished, at a cost of between three and four thousand dollars, and largely by the efforts of the late Hiram Bennett all the church indebtedness was cleared off by 1874. Repairs have subsequently been made to the structure, but the present building practically has seen nearly forty years of service. The brick parsonage was built on Jefferson street about 1888, at a cost of about fifteen hundred dollars, the land for the site being donated by Enoch Myres.

The pastors from the time of Rev. Sheldon to the present have been: L. W. Earl, S. C. Woodard, William Doust, W. W. Johnson, A. Coplin, T. J. Conden, N. M. Steele, David Thomas, Isaac Bennett, James N. Dayton, William Paddock, G. S. Barnes, Thomas Lyon, G. L. Haight, C. C.

Olds, A. M. Fitch, N. L. Bray, Louis Grosenbaugh, E. L. Kellog, D. C. Reihl, W. H. Thompson, E. A. Armstrong, W. H. Parsons, F. M. Taylor, G. S. Robinson, and P. A. Buell, who came to the charge in the fall of 1905.

The board of trustees at this writing are: M. J. Rawson, L. C. Failor, H. P. Norton, E. C. Foster, H. W. Noble; and the board of stewards, Mrs. C. H. Halleck, Mrs. M. J. Rawson, Mrs. N. C. Herendeen, Mrs. H. P. Norton, Mrs Dora Barber, W. H. Shipway, E. A. Dorris, and J. R. Smith. The membership now numbers about two hundred and thirty.

The Algansee M. E. church is a part of the Quincy charge. Its membership is about one hundred, and their nice brick church, which was the first and only building, was constructed about thirty-five years ago. The following compose the board of trustees: R. D. Reynolds, Fred Wilbur, Purl Hard, A. D. Ransom, Elmer Hoffman, Omer Winchell, L. W. Zeller. The board of stewards: M. A. Griswold, H. B. Walbridge, C. C. Foster, Emory Waterbury.

Wesleyan Methodist Church.

There is no definite information concerning the bringing of the first musical instruments to Branch county, especially such as piano and organ, although the date of their introduction would measure another step in general progress. But in the history of the Wesleyan branch of the Methodist church at Coldwater may be deduced the conclusion that at the time of its founding instrumental music was becoming more or less firmly fixed in favor. In 1850 a small number of the Methodists in Coldwater withdrew from the church because the majority insisted that the bass viol be used to supplement the vocal music. This schism resulted in the formation of the Wesleyan church, whose first services were held in an old schoolhouse a mile and a half south of the village, the charter members, among whom was the late James Fisk, numbering only six persons. For a number of years services were conducted in a schoolhouse, until the erection at the corner of North Hudson and Church streets of a modest frame church, which several years ago was remodeled. The membership has always been small, but has maintained its organization and the regular church activities. At the legal incorporation of the church in Nov., 1861, the following persons signed the articles of association, their names constituting the bulk of the early membership: S. B. Smith, Salmon Chapman, John P. Bradley, Aaron Burritt, C. B. F. Bennett, William C. Woodward, D. J. Smith, Olive Bullock, E. Paine, Fanny Chapman, James Fisk, Silas Burton, C. Coffman.

Bronson.

The first Methodist class was formed at Bronson in 1836, but died out, and the present organization dates from 1857. Mrs. Phurna Isabell Bartlett nee Wing, who came to Bronson about 1844, says that the first minister of the village within her remembrance was a Presbyterian, named Patch, living in Orland. The first Methodist minister in her recollection was Rev. Ercanbrack, who was in charge of the Coldwater church in the early forties. Rev.

Sabin, named in connection with the Coldwater church, also preached in Bronson. Rev. James N. Dayton, besides preaching, taught the union school. The meetings at first were held in the old "white schoolhouse" in the east of the village on the street leading to the cemetery, south of Chicago street and on the east side of the road, then called the "quarter line road." A Sunday-school was maintained in this schoolhouse at the time of Mrs. Bartlett's coming, and she recalls that Mary Ann Vance was her teacher.

Rev. John Clubine instituted the present Methodist society at Bronson in 1857. It was a station of the Burr Oak charge until 1866. The oldest book of records in possession of Rev. C. L. Keene, present pastor of the M. E. church at Bronson, and the oldest record of the church of which he knows, begins with "Dec. 22, 1866," as its earliest date. The first entry is that of "Minutes of the first quarterly conference for Bronson circuit * * * held at Snow Prairie, Dec. 22, 1866, Rev. Isaac Taylor in the chair." The parts of the circuit mentioned are Snow Prairie, Matteson, North Gilead, Bronson and Gilead. The following apportionment for the pastor's salary would seem to indicate the relative strength and membership of the "societies of the circuit." They were as follows: Gilead, $2.20; Snow Prairie, $2.00; North Gilead, $1.70; Bronson, $1.25; Matteson, $.85. In February, 1867, the "Shaw Schoolhouse Class" was added, and in September following Strong's Island was added. In September, 1869, Gilead, Noble Center, East Gilead, Snow Prairie and Kinderhook were set off as Gilead circuit.

The Bronson society held its meetings in a schoolhouse or public hall until the erection of the present brick building in 1871.

Sherwood.

The first Methodist class in Sherwood township was organized in 1838, with Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Studley, Mr. and Mrs. John Onderdonk and Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Williams as charter members. The frame church building was erected about 1858. The pastors since 1877 have been: O. S. Paddock, J. W. Buell, John Klose, S. George, C. C. Dawkins, M. H. Mott, W. J. Tarrant, William Barth, D. D. Martin, J. T. Iddings, G. D. Lee, E. A. Armstrong, L. A. Sevitts, J. C. Upton, J. G. Ruoff, Walter Burnett, Russell Bready, A. W. Mumford, J. W. Gosling, W. H. Parsons, Quinton Walker, E. A. Baldwin, F. H. Larabee.

Girard.

The Methodists were early in the field in Girard, meetings being held in the home of John Cornish while he was still a resident of that township. Allen Tibbits preached here and in a schoolhouse. The church was organized in 1840, the first board of trustees being the following settlers: Lyman Fox, Mason Chase, Joseph C. Corbus, John Parkinson, Lyman Aldrich, Benjamin H. Smith, John Worden. The first house of worship was put up in 1844, this was repaired in 1848, and the present brick church bears the date of 1876. Rev. Isaac Bennett preached at Girard in the sixties.

Union City.

In almost every locality the Methodists were the pioneers in church work in Branch county. At Union City they organized a short time before the Congregationalists, their first class being held in the winter of 1836-37. Isaiah Bennett and family and Mrs. Carpenter Chaffee are named among the first members. Coldwater supplied some of the first preachers, Revs. Sabin, Tibbits and Crippen being named in this connection. Some time in the forties a frame church was erected, and this gave place about twenty years ago to the handsome brick church, of modern design and proportions.

Other Methodist Societies.

The circuit of which Girard was a part during the forties comprised appointments at East Girard, West Girard, Bronson, Clizbe's (now Quincy), Brooks schoolhouse, Branch, Day's, and Union. There was a Methodist society on Shook's prairie in Butler township as early as 1838, the Shook and Wisner families being prominent in this organization.

A Methodist class was formed in Kinderhook in the winter of 1836-37, being a part of the Coldwater circuit at first and later of Gilead.

The church at Snow Prairie was organized in 1857, the class consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Warburton, Mr. and Mrs. John Dingman and Mrs. William Lamoreaux. The frame church on section 16 was erected in 1863, the first trustees being: John Reynolds, Lucius Williams, John Bassett, Charles Brook, Charles Warburton, Nicholas G. Ellis, Ebenezer McMillan, Collins Fenner and Moses M. Olmstead.

The Methodists in Gilead township outnumbered the followers of Bishop Chase even while that divine was endeavoring to build up an organization and school in the locality. This is alleged as one reason why the bishop became discouraged with Gilead and went to Illinois. In May, 1836, a short time before the departure of the Chase family for Illinois, a Methodist class was formed at the house of Benjamin Booth, his wife and a Mrs. Jones being the only ones present, but the next meeting being attended by the Williams, Bogardus and Smith families, and E. B. Williams becoming the first class leader. The class belonged to various circuits for thirty years, and in 1869 the Gilead circuit was set off, as elsewhere stated. The church building on section 8 was dedicated in August, 1862, and the first board of trustees were the following: Daniel Marsh, Elisha B. Williams, Samuel Booth, John Feller, Edward M. Williams, Don C. Mather, Horace C. Williams.

The active Methodist societies, with regular preaching, now in Branch county are as follows: Coldwater, Quincy, Bronson, Union City and Sherwood are the five Methodist churches in the one city and the four villages of the county. Some particular account of these has been given. We take occasion here to state that in our endeavor to gather information concerning the religious societies of the county, a letter was sent to the pastor of every active church. Where no response was made, we have not been able to give

as much information as we otherwise might have done. Besides the five Methodist Episcopal churches just mentioned, the others in the county are the following, taking them by townships and beginning with Butler: South Butler or Butler Center, and Herricksville or North Butler; these both have church buildings, the present pastor being Rev. B. Silverthorne. Girard has one society with a church building, as already noted, with two classes besides, one at Hodunk and one in the Cornell district. The pastor in charge is Rev. J. F. Bowerman. There are no societies in the townships of Union and Sherwood, Coldwater, Quincy and Bronson other than those in the city and villages. Matteson, Batavia, Ovid, and California have never had any organized Methodist churches. In Algansee, the Algansee or Fishers society has a good brick building. Kinderhook has one society with a building at its center. In Gilead there are two, South Gilead and North Gilead, each with a building. Noble has one society with a building erected near the townhouse in 1903. In all there are thirteen Methodist Episcopal church buildings in the county.

Free Methodist Church of Sherwood.

[The following sketch has been furnished for publication in this work.]

Rev. John Ellison was the instrument in the hands of God to raise up the first Free Methodist class in this place and in the spring of 1866 a church was erected—the first Free Methodist church in the state of Michigan. The following September the annual conference was held in the new church and it was dedicated to God's service by Rev. Joseph Travers. Twenty-six names were on the first enrollment, but time, death and distance have done their work and Bro. John Coward is the only charter member left in the church. Rev. B. T. Roberts, the father of Free Methodism, and Rev. E. T. Hart rendered faithful service as district elders in those pioneer days. The first ministers sent to this work were D. W. Bishop and B. R. Jones, the boy preacher, as he was then called. Following these were: Bro. Gitchel, Charles Cusick, T. C. Frink, Bro. Forbs, Bro. Billings, Bro. Marshall, L. Lezenring, M. D. Baldwin, G. R. Tompkins, Bro. Baxter, George Thompson, N. R. Woods, J. Baker, E. Bradfield, W. S. McDivett, G. W. C. Smith, A. Bradfield, P. S. Shoemaker, C. H. Jerome, D. J. Vanantwerp, I. L. King, R. L. Scamerhorn, C. M. Miller. The names of charter members are: George Moyer and wife, William Davis and wife, Peter Rumsey and wife, Bro. Newton and wife and sister, John Tomlinson and wife, Bro. Maston and wife and daughters, Orpha, Marette and Mirtie, C. Hauganbaugh and wife and daughter Martha, M. J. Drook and S. Drook, John Coward, Aliva V. Moyer, Waid Bond, Ann Waugh, Sister Bartlett.

Besides the Sherwood church, there are also four other Free Methodist societies in the county, one in the city of Coldwater on Perkins street, another in the southwestern part of Quincy township, a third in Algansee, and the fourth in Bethel. The Coldwater society has this year, 1906, built a new house of worship. Rev. John R. Poet ministers at present to all four of these churches. All have church buildings.

Baptist Churches.

Coldwater.

The history of the Baptist church of Coldwater has been carefully compiled from the church records by Mr. A. R. Burroughs in response to a request from the editor of this work. The beginnings of the church involve so many pioneer names and circumstances of early days that it is deemed best to quote some of the first records.

"At a meeting of several brethren of the Baptist denomination held at the house of Hiram Alden in said village on the evening of December 31, 1834," is the initial statement of one minute, "it was resolved to circulate an article among the Baptists of the vicinity for the purpose of organizing a Baptist society. The signatures to this article tell us the pioneer Baptists who resided in the vicinity of Coldwater village in that early year, 1835, and who became the nucleus of the first church. They are: Chauncey Strong, Nathan Strong, William D. Strong, George W. Arnold, Hiram Alden, Parley Stockwell, Ann Logan, Matilda Alden, Prudence Arnold, Eunice Strong, Sally Strong, Sarah Strong, Betsey Strong, Sarah Sheldon, Nathan H. Strong.

The first conference of these persons for the purpose of forming a church was held in the village schoolhouse January 17, 1835, and on February 11th a council assembled at the house of Mr. Alden, consisting of elders and official members from other churches, who examined credentials of prospective members of the local society and concluded with the following resolutions: "That we recognize the above-named brethren and sisters as a regular Baptist church, and that Bro. Powell preach on the occasion and that the moderator present the hand of fellowship."

The church has continued from its organization until the present time. At first it had no settled pastor, but was supplied a part of the time by Rev. E. Loomis of the Baptist Home Missionary Society. Rev. Reuben Graham was the first settled pastor, from Oct., 1835, to Sept., 1837. From this time until July, 1842, Rev. John Southworth, Rev. Mallory and Rev. W. B. Brown served as pastors.

The following is a list of the pastors who have since served the church, with period of their several pastorates:

Rev. James Davis, Dec., 1842—July, 1844.
Rev. J. A. Keyes, Nov., 1844—Aug., 1845.
Rev. Oliver Comstock, Oct., 1845—June, 1848.
Rev. Anson P. Tucker, Nov., 1848—May, 1850.
Rev. F. O. Marsh, Oct., 1850—Oct., 1853.
Rev. E. J. Covey, Dec., 1853—June, 1856.
Rev. A. A. Ellis, Jan., 1857—April, 1858.
Rev. Edwin Eaton, June, 1858—April, 1866.
Rev. E. Curtis, Sept., 1866—Sept. 1868.
Rev. N. Pierce, Oct., 1868—Dec., 1870.
Rev. W. T. Lowry, August, 1871—July 1881.

Rev. J. H. Donelly, Feb., 1882—May, 1884.
Rev. J. H. Groff, Sept., 1884—Nov., 1885.
Rev. J. P. Phillips, Feb., 1886—Feb., 1890.
Rev. E. Otheman Smith, July, 1890—Feb., 1894.
Rev. Benjamin Otto, August, 1894—Feb., 1897.
Rev. Chas. F. Vreeland, March, 1897—March, 1900.
Rev. Ira D. Hall, July, 1900—May, 1902.
Rev. M. A. Graybiel, July, 1902—Continues.

From the time of organization up to the present time the church has been served by twenty-three pastors, on an average of three years to each pastorate.

December 20th, 1843, the church voted to build a house of worship, and soon thereafter a frame building was erected on the lot where the Old Bank Building now stands (Chicago and Monroe streets). Here the church worshipped until the winter of 1852-53, when the lot was sold and the building moved to the northwest corner of Monroe and Pearl streets.

The present church edifice on the northwest corner of Pearl and Division streets was erected during the pastorate of Rev. Edwin Eaton, 1863, and was dedicated free from debt in August, 1865, and was enlarged during the pastorate of Rev. Otheman Smith. The original cost of the church was $25,000, and the extension between three and four thousand. A pipe organ costing $2,500, built in the church during the pastorate of Rev. W. T. Lowry in 1876, and a fine bell have been added to the church building since its erection. During the first year of the pastorate of Rev. M. A. Graybiel the church made purchase of a fine house and property, northeast corner of Division and Washington streets, costing, with improvements, $3,750, to be used as a church parsonage. During the years 1905-6 the church by gift of individual members placed eight memorial windows in the audience room at a cost of $1,000.

The present officers of the church are: Everett F. Collins, clerk; W. H. Simons, treasurer; H. C. Simons, C. T. Yapp, H. B. George, E. A. Dunton, Dr. George Ferguson, N. A. Angell, deacons; W. H. Simons, Eli Ball, Dr. F. G. Legg, Clarence T. Yapp, Thomas A. Hilton, Zelotes G. Osborn, trustees.

From the best information to be obtained, the Sabbath-school was organized during the pastorate of Rev. J. A. Keyes in 1845. The present superintendent is Henry B. George.

Quincy.

The persons composing the meeting for organization of a Baptist society, held in the schoolhouse in Hog Creek district of Quincy township June 27, 1846, represented in the main the core of the Baptist adherents in that township at that day. They were: Alfred Wilmarth, George Boon, Marcus Muckey, I. W. Pratt, Simon Gager, Francis Ransom, Ansel Nichols, Samuel Etheridge, Sillman Hedge, Mrs. T. H. Wilmarth, Mary Boon, Almira Brown, Lucetta H. Pratt, Rebecca Gager, Chloe Ransom, Susan Nichols,

Cynthia M. Etheridge, Aseneth Nichols, Sally Muckey, Mrs. Asa Bowen. A council in August of the same year recognized them as a church, and attached it to the Hillsdale association. In September, 1855, forty members were dismissed to form the Second Algansee Baptist church.

The first meetings were held in the Hog Creek church, soon the schoolhouse in Quincy village became the place of worship, this alternating with the Mudge schoolhouse until the erection of a house of worship, which was completed in the spring of 1854.

Algansee.

As mentioned in the sketch of the Quincy church, in 1855 a division of its membership occurred and about forty persons living mainly in Algansee township formed what was known as "the Second Algansee Baptist church." The First Baptist church of Algansee was formed in 1854, their meetings, during their existence of twelve years, being held in the Wakeman schoolhouse. The Second church was recognized by a council on March 13, 1856, and the charter members were as follows: Francis D. Ransom, Phares Chittenden, Jason L. Ransom, John H. Ransom, John Ransom, Zebina G. Trim, Joel Campbell, David Hillman, John C. Perring, Benjamin Bishop, Amos Hough, Peter Leighton, Nathan Leighton, Spencer Cory, John Cory, Henry W. Waterbury, James A. Ransom, William W. Potter, David Robb, and Sisters C. Ranson, L. Chittenden, C. Ransom, H. Ransom, U. Trim, M. Campbell, H. Hillman, L. Perring, L. Bishop, L. Bishop, O. Hough, S. Jordan, L. Fisher, O. Cory, S. A. Barber, J. A. Ransom, Margaret Hillman, M. Hoxie, L. Robb. The church building, on the south line of section 2, was erected in 1868.

Union City.

The pastor of the Baptist church at Union City, Rev. H. Z. Davis, has furnished the following facts concerning the history of his church. The first Baptist church of Union City was organized May 14, 1870, was recognized by a council on October 13, 1870, and was received into the St. Joseph Valley Association, May 13, 1871. The church met for business meetings and worship in a hall, and later at Mr. Barrett's home, until the present frame house of worship was erected and dedicated on February 24, 1886, the church being located on the south side of the village.

The charter members of this church were: Lucius Blosson, Alma Blosson, Ira Lake, Clark C. Lake, Zeruch Lake, Charlotte Prentiss, Mary Johnson. The successive pastors who have served the congregation have been: William Pack, Samuel A. Cole, S. G. Brundage, J. H. Ainsworth, William Haas, B. Ashton, T. E. Hauser, E. D. Way, H. Z. Davis.

Bronson.

The Baptist church of Bronson was organized in 1857 at a meeting held in the house in which Mr. C. M. Van Every now (May, 1906) lives. This house was built in 1839 by Alonzo Waterman, afterwards of Coldwater.

The original members were: Wildman Bennett, Ann Bennett, David M. Johnson, Jane Johnson, N. O. Brown, Mrs. M. J. Brown, S. H. Collins, Mrs. F. Collins, Bro. O. Oliver, Sister E. Allen, Bro. J. Boughman, Sister A. Boughman, Sister Beesmer, Sister J. A. Carr, Sister S. Earle, Dr. W. Byrns, Sister Atwater.

Meetings were conducted from 1857 to 1864 under Licentiate A. J. Hunt, Elder J. Southworth and Elder Pease. The building of the house of worship was commenced in the spring of 1861, but on account of limited means was not opened for worship until January 22, 1864. The building is still standing as first put up forty years ago. Rev. J. Kelley followed Rev. Pease, remaining until Feb. 18, 1865, and in March, 1865, Elder Phillip Rowden became pastor. A pipe organ was purchased in 1878. Rev. James H. Gagnier, the present pastor, began his work with the church June 1, 1904.

In the northwestern part of Bronson township is an organized Baptist society known as the Shawtown Baptist church. It holds its meetings in the schoolhouse of district No. 7.

There are thus eight regular Baptist organizations in the county. About 1875 there was a Baptist society in Ovid township. It was disbanded about 1895, though the church building, a brick structure, is still standing and is known as "the Lockwood church."

Girard.

The First Baptist church of Girard was organized at the house of William Van Blarcum in Girard, June 8, 1859, the charter members, who had previously been connected with churches at Coldwater and Tekonsha, being as follows: William Van Blarcum, E. M. Waldo, George B. Johnson, Amasa R. Day, E. T. Todd, Mary Smith, Harriet C. Day, Sarah Burr, Mary Van Blarcum, Matilda B. Waldo, Alvina Todd, Eunice L. Burr, Mary Olney.

The first regular house of worship was the old district schoolhouse, which had been purchased and donated to the society by William Van Blarcum and remodeled for church purposes. The building of the present church was begun in 1876, but it was not finished until several years later. Rev. E. R. Clark closed his pastorate of two years March 31, 1880. October 1, 1880, Rev. S. A. Cole began serving the church and continued until Aug. 1, 1884.

Kinderhook.

The only other regular Baptist society in the county with a building of its own is that of Kinderhook. It was organized Oct. 25, 1856. From that time to the present it has continued to be an active church organization, never long without a pastor preaching regularly. Rev. Charles A. Cutler its latest minister, resigned in 1905.

FREE-WILL OR FREE BAPTIST CHURCHES.

One of the earliest societies of this denomination was formed at Girard, May 10, 1849. The thirteen original members were: L. Y. Limbocker,

Diadama Limbocker, John Loring, N. M. Millard, Cynthia Millard, Charles Lane, Henry Aurend, Matilda Aurend, Alexander Ladow, John Smart, Anna Cutler, Mary E. Cutler. The congregation erected a building in Girard village, on Marshal street, just north of the regular Baptist church, in 1856.

West Kinderhook.

Rev. E. W. Hughes, pastor of the Free-Will Baptist church at West Kinderhook, states that the society was formed March 10, 1850, by J. H. Miner and Elder Hadley. The first members have all passed away. The church was incorporated in 1882, and also in that year the brick church which is now the house of worship was constructed. The present membership is about forty-five.

Bethel.

The Free-Will Baptist church of Bethel was organized August 28, 1853. For many years the meetings were held in the Butcher schoolhouse in section 1, but in 1903 a house of worship was erected in the same locality by the congregation. Among the earliest members of this church were: Orrin B. and Martha S. Cummings, James and Abigail Thurston, Arwin, Peleg C. and Mercy Bates, Alanson and Ann Harris, Hiram Olmstead, Mrs. Mary Carmer.

Batavia.

A more complete record of the Batavia church has been furnished the editor by Mrs. E. C. Mintline, clerk of the church. The church originated in a series of meetings held in the old brick schoolhouse near Batavia station by Rev. Lura Mains. A council which met in the schoolhouse Feb. 28, 1880, organized a church with six charter members, namely, Myron Draper, Augusta Draper, Dewitt Draper, William Westerman, W. R. Card, Emily Card. W. R. Card is the only charter member remaining. Other names added to the membership the next day were: Anna G. Shay, David J. Perrin, Betsey Perrin, Alonzo Olmstead, Christina Olmstead. A plot of ground from the John Sheneman farm was purchased in 1880 and in the autumn of the following year the neat little church building was completed. Sabbath-school was conducted from the first and in 1884 the Woman's Missionary Auxiliary was formed. The church property is now valued at $1,500, and the members are about thirty in number.

Some of the prominent members past and present who have been identified with this church are: George Barnard, Elizabeth Gray, E. D. Harkness, for twenty-three years officially connected with the church; C. H. Austin, treasurer for the past twenty-three years; Mrs. E. M. Jordan, Mrs. John Sheneman, Asa Russell, and others.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES.

The First Presbyterian church of Coldwater originated in pioneer times, and the names of well known first settlers are included in its meeting for or-

ganization. This meeting was held in the village schoolhouse Sept. 30, 1837, Rev. P. W. Warriner preached the sermon, and the charter members constituting the first church were: Luther and Clarissa Stiles, James and Abigail Smith, Edmond and Catherine Sloan, E. G. Fuller, Ambrose and Eliza Grow, Mrs. Alexander Reynolds, Mary Ann Reynolds, Sophronia Reynolds, Mrs. Amaty Cruson, Mary Smith, James Smith, Jr., Lydia Smith. Prominent among the members who were soon added were Silas A. Holbrook, William H. Cross, and Alexander Reynolds.

During the first few years the meetings were held in the schoolhouses on Hudson street or on Clay street, and also in the temporary court-house room in the "Coon Pen" building, elsewhere described. A church organization according to legal form was effected at a meeting in the "Coon Pen," Aug. 9, 1843, and about the same time the building of a church was undertaken. The edifice, which was of frame, was dedicated in the fall of 1844, under the pastorate of S. C. Hickok. This served as the church home until the sixties. Both the Methodist and Baptist congregations had erected fine churches, and the Presbyterians built one still larger. The first plans were laid in 1864, but it was not until Oct. 12, 1869, that the present brick building was dedicated.

Revs. Warriner, Charles W. Girney and Louis Mills were the principal pastors during the early years of the church. Rev. S. C. Hickok served from 1844 to 1847. Following him were Elihu P. Marvin, O. W. Mather, R. S. Goodman, from 1853 to 1860; Horace C. Hovey, G. L. Foster, W. C. Porter, J. Gordon Jones, from April, 1872, to October, 1878; H. P. Collin, Dec., 1878, to March 31, 1905. Rev. Willis L. Gelston, the present pastor, began his work in Sept., 1905.

Quincy.

The First Presbyterian church of Quincy was organized Feb. 27, 1857, the following persons associating themselves into an organization: William N. Carter, Julia Carter, Marcia Potter, Mrs. J. W. Chapin, William Hughes, Jeremiah B. Whelan, Elijah Leland. Mrs. William Hughes, Mrs. J. B. Whelan and Mrs. Withington were soon added to the original membership. The society was small during its first years and had difficulty in maintaining its organization. The church building was not constructed until 1869. Since that time it has carried the usual church activities with but few interruptions.

California.

California township has been a center of Presbyterian activity from an early day. At a meeting for organization of a Presbyterian church, held in the schoolhouse at Hall's Corners, April 11, 1840, the following well known pioneers associated themselves to form a church: Joseph W. Lawrence, Sr., Sybil Lawrence, Thomas Pratt, Alma Pratt, Joseph W. Lawrence, Jr., Susan N. Lawrence, Ezra S. E. Brainard, Walter H. Lathrop, Emeline Lathrop, Mrs. Lucy Robbins. Their building, which is located at California post-

office, was completed and dedicated in 1871, at a cost of about twenty-five hundred dollars.

The United Presbyterians and the Reformed Presbyterians also gained a foothold in California township. A society of the former denomination was organized June 16, 1865, some of its original members being William C. Thompson, Alexander Thompson, Thomas Hall, John S. Patterson, William Stewart, Oscar Jameson, Alexander Vance.

Congregational Churches.

Union City.

The First Congregational church of Union City, Branch county, Michigan, was organized March 7th, 1837. The meeting was conducted by Rev. Calvin Clark of Homer. The following sixteen persons having letters of dismission and recommendation from other churches, and two on confession of their faith, entered into covenant: Chester Hammond, Fanny Hammond, Ellen E. Hammond, Alpheus Saunders, Lucina Saunders, Lewis Hawley, Charlotte Hawley, David Kilbourn, Clarinda Kilbourn, Justus B. Buell, Emeline Buell, Thomas B. Buell, Charles A. Lincoln, Chares H. Coates, Esther Maxfield, Sarah Jane Hurd, Mary Ann Saunders, Charlotte Bernard.

March 16th, 1839, the church became connected with the Marshall Presbytery on the "Plan of Union of 1801." At the formation of the Marshall Conference of Congregational Churches in Union City, January 13th, 1841, the church united with that body. In November, 1837, Rev. Charles W. Gurney, a Presbyterian minister, was employed to labor in the ministry of the Gospel with this church, which he continued to do until June, 1839. In the following October Rev. Elijah Buck, also a Presbyterian minister, was employed, and continued his labors until September, 1840. The ministry of Rev. L. Smith Hobart commenced on the Sabbath, the first day of November, 1840. The services were held in the district schoolhouse, which was the usual place of public worship. After the completion of a pastorate of eight years, he was dismissed by the advice of a council, November 2nd, 1848.

The first house of worship occupied by the church was erected on High street. This was dedicated December 24th, 1840. It was furnished with a suitable bell in May, 1843, enlarged in 1850, and sold in 1869.

Rev. Henry C. Morse commenced his ministry with the church Nov. 5th, 1848. His work closed in March, 1853. Rev. Adam S. Kedzie followed in the ministry without interval. His work ended in the month of September, 1854. Rev. Joseph S. Edwards was engaged in November, 1854, and continued his work about six months. In December, 1855, Rev. Reuben Hatch commenced his labors with the church and remained until April, 1859. During this period the enterprise of building the present brick church edifice was undertaken. Rev. Sereno W. Streeter commenced his ministry here in November, 1859. He was installed as pastor by an ecclesiastical council

in February, 1863. In November, 1869, he was dismissed by a council, closing his ministry of ten years.

The present brick church edifice was dedicated February 5th, 1862. The ministry of Rev. Emory G. Chaddock began January 25th, 1870. During this year the church edifice was reseated, the gallery raised and extended, thus adding accommodations for a much larger audience. Mr. Chaddock was dismissed by the advice of a council December 18th, 1873. On the second of April, 1872, the records and papers of the church were wholly consumed by fire. The chapel in the rear of the church edifice was built by Deacon David R. Cooley, and completed October 30th, 1873, at a cost of $850, including the furnishings.

Rev. Warren F. Day commenced his ministry with this church February 1st, 1874, and closed it October 12th, 1877. The pastorate of Rev. Helmuth H. Van Auken began December 30th, 1877, and continued until February 22nd, 1885. During this time the present chapel was enlarged and repairs were made in the main building. The organ was purchased and the alcove built for it at the rear of the pulpit.

Dr. Horatio N. Burton entered upon his labors as pastor April 3rd, 1885, and continued with the church until January 14th, 1888, when he resigned on account of failing health. During his pastorate the church building was repaired, painted and frescoed at a cost of $1,500. The Order of Deaconesses was instituted in 1886.

Rev. James R. Knodell was called to the church as its pastor, beginning his work March 18th, 1888, and continuing until September 27th, 1891. Rev. Harlow S. Mills, having been called to the pastorate of the church, commenced his labors November 1st, 1891, and continued until September 27th, 1896. February 7th, 1897, Rev. Joseph A. Barnes began his work as pastor of the church, continuing his labors until June 24th, 1900.

For a number of years the Church Helpers had been accumulating a fund for the purchase of a parsonage. In 1899 Mr. Thomas B. Buell presented the church with a deed of property and a sum of money toward the same object. In October, 1900, an additional gift was made by Mrs. Sarah Case in memory of her mother, Mrs. Thomas Buell. The union of these funds and gifts enabled the church to acquire the large and beautiful residence near the church which is to be known as the Buell parsonage.

Rev. David L. Holbrook, the present pastor, entered upon his work November 4th, 1900. The church was incorporated January 1, 1901.

Algansee.

The First Congregational church of Algansee was organized Aug. 26, 1886, by Rev. E. D. Curtis of Grand Rapids, who preached the sermon, and Rev. J. R. Preston, who gave the right hand of fellowship to the following charter members: M. B. Wakeman, Mrs. Abigail Wakeman, R. D. Tift, Mrs. Rosana Tift, Miss Lizzie Tift. H. W. Hungerford, Mrs. Sophia Hungerford, Miss Mary G. Hungerford, Mrs. Lettie Braman, Mrs. Theresa Cleveland, Mrs. Maria Pridgeon, Mrs. Anna C. Webber, Miss Lizzie Duggs,

Miss Lillie Draper. Meetings were held in the schoolhouse until a suitable church building was erected and dedicated January 11, 1903, at an expense of $2,500.

The church has been served by the following named pastors: Revs. J. R. Preston, E. A. Childs, F. W. Brown, J. R. Edgerton, A. A. Luce, N. D. Lanpere, C. E. Groves, Winslow, John Gordon, Herbert A. Kern, Wilfred Frost, George Brown, Perry D. Gray, who is now in his third year.

Gilead.

One of the oldest Congregational societies in the county was that formed at John McKinley's residence in northwest Gilead township, Dec. 25, 1847. Those forming the society, while subscribing to the Congregational form of government, adhered to the Presbyterian "confession of faith and doctrine." The actual organization of the society occurred at Emerson Marsh's house, and the first members were: Emerson, Maria and Martha E. Marsh, George W., Francis C., Mary and Rebecca Bull, William S. and Sarah W. Evans, Jason and Polly R. Harris, John, Jeanette and Margaret McKinley, Stephen and Margaret McMillan, Emeline, Caroline and Polly Ried, Katherine and Deborah Freeman, Betsey, Clarissa and Electa Smith, Richard C. Dickinson, Walter O. Richards, Elizabeth Hale, Eunice Fuller, Hannah Gaines.

The church withdrew from its Presbyterian connection in 1876-77 and became a purely Congregational society. About 1864, in conjunction with the Methodists of Gilead, this society built the union church, which stands near Lake Gilead on section 5. Rev. J. R. Bonney acted as pastor of this church from 1881 to 1885.

Besides the foregoing there are also four other Congregational societies in the county, known as the Matteson, Bethel, North Batavia and Kinderhook Congregational churches. All of these have church buildings. The Matteson church was organized March 9, 1889, by Rev. J. M. Sutherland in Bennett's Hall, east of the store at the head of Matteson Lake. Albert A. Luce was chairman of the meeting at which the church was organized.

Bronson.

The Congregational church at Bronson was organized in a meeting at Rose's Hall, May 7, 1868. Five ladies constituted the charter membership, their names being Mrs. Isabella Waite, Mrs. Mary Shepard, Mrs. Harriet Nott, Mrs. Harriet Fellows, Mrs. Cornelia Babcock. The legal society was not organized until March 21, 1870, when Christopher G. Babcock, F. A. Waite, George F. Gillam, Reuben M. Roberts and Jason Shepard were elected trustees. Of these trusteees Mr. Babcock was made treasurer and Mr. Waite clerk.

The names of the ministers who have been pastors of the church are the following: John Randolph Bonney, from Feb., 1868, to June, 1878; Frank B. Olds, Sept. 26, 1878, to the spring of 1879; J. R. Bonney again in 1880; John M. Sutherland, May, 1887; G. F. Holcombe; Albert E. Seibert,

Sept. 5, 1890, to Oct. 30, 1892; Henry A. Decker, Sept. 12, 1893, to March 12, 1895; Charles H. Seaver, June 1, 1895; Frank H. Lockwood, Jan., 1897; David G. Blair, Nov. 1, 1898, to May 29, 1904; William W. Schumaker, Aug. 5, 1904, to Sept. 24, 1905; Henry Park Collin, Nov. 19, 1905, who is the present pastor.

In 1872, during the first pastorate of Mr. Bonney, a frame chapel was erected. This was used as the church building until 1887, when, during the pastorate of Mr. Sutherland, a building of brick was put up on the south side of Chicago street between Matteson and Walker streets, which is the society's present church building. This house has thus been in use by the church nineteen years.

Rev. J. R. Bonney, as is shown by the foregoing list of pastors, has served this church through two periods, the first of ten years and the second of six, or sixteen years out of the entire thirty-eight of its life. No minister has ever labored so long in the western part of the county as has Mr. Bonney. He was ordained in the county in 1863, in connection with his preaching in a schoolhouse in Matteson township. At the present writing, July, 1906, he and his wife are residing in Bronson, passing their later years respected and beloved by the village community and by many in all parts of the county.

In 1893 the church reported 102 resident members. From an examination of the reports of several years, this would seem to be its largest membership. For 1906 its resident membership is given as 86. The membership and activity of the church have been lessening for several years, and probably at no time since the erection of the present house of worship in 1887 has the church been so low in numbers, in activity, and in financial ability.

United Brethren.

A church of the United Brethren in Christ was organized by R. T. Martin in the Block schoolhouse in Bethel township in 1849, with a charter membership of forty-five. The first church house was dedicated August 2, 1869, by Bishop J. Weaver. The second church was dedicated in 1899 by Rev. Wesley Tilley. The building cost about two thousand dollars. The present membership is 43, the officials being: Frank Lampman, N. Piatt, W. Nagle, A. McEndarffer, William Ammerman, trustees; Frank Lampman, leader, and George Lobdell, steward, and O. S. Martin, superintendent of Sunday-school. The names of the successive pastors are: Revs. R. T. Martin, J. J. Johnston, Redman, A. Zeever, J. Woldorf, D. Bender, J. W. Hill, George Crawford, Kester, J. Brown, J. Tedrow, Hight. J. W. Martin, Swank, Hopkins, Kneep, E. E. Rhodes.

Evangelical Lutheran Churches.

St. Paul's Lutheran church at Coldwater had its origin in services held in 1858 by Rev. Speichard of Hillsdale. Organization followed in 1860, the charter members being: L. Erb, F. W. Flandermeyer, H. H. Flander-

meyer, L. Denner, F. Korff, G. Meyer, Mr. Nehring, H. Lingle, G. Wahl. The property and church building were purchased in 1863. Until 1877 the congregation was supplied with a minister from Hillsdale, but in 1878 became a separate charge, under Rev. F. Haueser. The parsonage was built in 1880 and the school in 1882. Rev. Haueser was succeeded in 1884 by Rev. M. Toewe; he by Rev. A. Roeder in 1891, who remained until 1903. In 1904 Rev. C. J. Homan came to the vacancy.

Zion Church of the Evangelical Association.

This society at East Gilead was organized in 1860 by Rev. R. Sneilly with the following charter members: C. S. Brown and family, Jacob Doer and family, Josiah Snyder and family. C. S. Brown was class leader until 1865, when he entered the ministry. In 1866 the present church edifice was erected. The present minister is Warren Brown.

The Unitarians.

Unity church at Sherwood was organized in 1878, and the society was incorporated Feb. 3, 1894. The first church building was erected in 1881, and the present structure in 1892. The charter members of this church, which is now in a flourishing condition, are the following named: John F. Williams, Sol F. Downs, John F. McIntyre, Menton E. Sawin, Leverett R. Daniels, Ryan Williams, Edward Carswell, Spencer Bennett, Judson H. Watkins, William T. Smith, Chas. W. Eisenmann, Homer J. Craft, G. B. Williams, Mrs. M. Williams, Mrs. A. Williams, John Studley, Dr. Robt. Fraser, Mrs. Dr. Robt. Fraser, Samuel Cline, Mrs. Samuel Cline, Mrs. A. L. Williams, Mrs. Laura E. Turrell, Mrs. Isabell Salisbury, Catherine Renew, Mrs. Rebecca Bennett, Nora Moyer, Mrs. Ada Fish, Orpha A. Canfield, Andrew Renew, Mrs. Jennie E. Case, Wm. Wriggleworth, Dwight Coddington, R. M. Barton, Isaac C. Maltby, S. S. Kilburn, A. C. Bell, E. E. Coddington, Wallace Kilburn, Geo. D. Fish, H. H. Cross, Geo. W. Blackwell, H. W. Locke, James Gwin, Esther A. Rumsey, Emma Hazen, Louisa Hinkle, Geo. Sexton, Thomas Lockard, Susan Tinney, Ann Waugh, Elver Gwinn, Alta Gwinn, Mrs. J. Maltby, Mrs. Miller, Jacob Mound, Mrs. S. M. Kilburn, Vine Bennett, Melinda Wriggleworth, James Tilletson, R. R. Jones, J. B. Olney, Mrs. Elvira Kilburn, Mrs. M. E. Bell, Amasa L. Hills, Holton Kilburn, Clark Canfield, Ida S. Daniels, C. Sanderson, J. F. Tilletson, Lucretia St. Clair, Ella Frye, Mrs. J. Worts, Celinda A. Sawin, Edwin Tinney, Jasper T. Davis, Sarah Mastin, Melvin Gwinn.

The ministers who have served the Unitarians at Sherwood are: Rev. M. V. Rorks, Rev. Ida C. Hultin, Rev. F. M. Aunks, Rev. Henry Vassema, Rev. Andrews, Rev. F. W. Hayes, Rev. E. H. Barrett, Rev. B. A. Hills.

Mennonites and Dunkards.

In Noble township is an organization known as Mennonites, the exact name of which is the "Mennonite Brethren in Christ." This denomination,

to which the Mennonites of Noble belong, was formed by a union of two simliar bodies at Jamestown, Ohio, Dec. 27, 1883. According to the book of discipline, "it is not allowed to introduce either musical instruments or choirs into our public worship;" no member shall be permitted to have his life insured; baptism is by immersion only; they recommend and practice feet washing, this rite being observed in connection with communion, which is observed every three months. The officers of the Noble church at this writing (January, 1906) are: Rev. William H. Moore, minister; William Smith, superintendent of the Sunday-school; John Teachout, class leader; Menno Good, deacon.

Another similar organization, namely, the Dunkards, hold meetings in the Mennonite church in Noble every two weeks.

Roman Catholic Churches.

St. Charles Roman Catholic church at Coldwater was organized in 1849. A small frame church was erected in 1856 on the present church site on Harrison street near Clay. This building was destroyed by incendiaries in June, 1859. A brick building was erected in 1860, and this was remodeled a few years ago. The brick parsonage was built in 1867, and the St. Stanislaus chapel was constructed about three years ago at the time of the remodeling. Rev. Father C. Korst was pastor of this parish about thirty years. Father Dennis A. Hayes is the present pastor.

Bronson.

Father Korst, of Coldwater, also organized St. Mary's Roman Catholic church at Bronson in the eighties. Father Korst was the first priest officiating at Bronson. After him came Father Crowe, who built the present brick church and the parsonage. His successors have been Father Roskie, Father Meziskie, Father Hewelt, who built the schoolhouse in 1900 at a cost of four thousand dollars. Father Hewelt left in April, 1906, and the present pastor is Father Maruszczyk.

Protestant Episcopal Churches.

The pioneer of the Episcopal form of religious worship in Branch county was, of course, Bishop Chase, who conducted the first Episcopal service in the county at the location then known as Adams Mills, in west Bronson township, in 1832. The history of his settlement in Gilead, described elsewhere, should be read in connection with the history of the Protestant Episcopal church in this county.

St. Mark's Protestant Episcopal church at Coldwater had its origin at a meeting February 9, 1848, "at the White schoolhouse" in Coldwater, where legal incorporation was effected and the following persons chosen as wardens and vestrymen: Joseph H. Moss, Richard Greenwood, wardens; Luman Howe, E. G. Fuller, L. D. Crippen, James Pierson and George A. Coe, vestrymen. Services with the Episcopal liturgy were held in Cold-

water before this time, and for some years after the organization the place of worship was the schoolhouses and the court house. In 1859 a site was purchased on Hanchett street and a building attempted, but failed through a defective title. Several years later a frame building was constructed at another site on Hanchett street, the church being consecrated April 14, 1863. A rectory was built on East Chicago street at the present church site in 1870. During the following decade plans were laid for a new building and in 1880 the corner stone of the present edifice was laid, and September 29, 1886, the church was consecrated. Extensive improvements were made in 1895, including a new organ.

The rectors of the church and the years in which they began their service are as follows: George Willard, 1848; Gardner M. Skinner, 1855; Henry Safford, 1860; Joseph Wood, 1863; J. Wainright Ray, 1866; George P. Schetky, D. D., 1869; Henry Safford, 1870; Herbert J. Cook, 1875; Henry Hughes, 1886; Herbert Sowerby, 1895.

Union City.

Grace Episcopal Church, which no longer maintains regular services, was organized at the home of Dr. H. F. Ewers, Dec. 23, 1864, with eighteen charter members. The present frame church building on Ellen street was erected in 1865, the first rector being Rev. George Verner.

In the foregoing we have given some account of all the church organizations in the county connected with the Roman Catholic Church and with the larger and longer existing denominations of Protestantism. Other religious beliefs than those held by the bodies described, have been held by people in the county all through its history. The numbers holding these beliefs have been relatively small. The names of these beliefs, or, rather, of the people holding them, are these: Disciples or Christians, Seventh Day Adventists, Spiritualists, the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Christian Scientists, the Church of God, and Dowieites.

The Disciples or Christians have had for a number of years a society in Quincy, and they have also there a small church building.

The Seventh Day Adventists have had organizations in Coldwater, Quincy and Bronson.

The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints are sometimes called Mormons, but they are entirely disconnected in their organization from the Utah Mormon Church. They have an organized society or "branch" in the county, and a church building which is located on section 19 of Quincy township on the north side of the Chicago road. The "branch" was organized in 1864 in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bradford Corliss, who were then residing in southwest Quincy. The building was not erected until about 1895. Mr. Corliss, who now resides in Coldwater, has been for twenty-five years president of the branch, which is known as "the Coldwater Branch of the Northern Indiana and Southern Michigan District." Rev.

S. W. L. Scott, residing in Coldwater, is an active missionary of this religious denomination.

From an early day in the life of the county to the present time there have always been some Spiritualists among its people, the numbers varying with the decades. At times they have been numerous enough to have one or more organizations. At one time in Coldwater they were strong enough to erect a fine, substantial brick structure for their meetings. This house is still standing on the southeast corner of Pearl and Division streets, though for the past forty years it has been owned and occupied as a private residence.

In January, 1906, the First Church of Christ, Scientist, of Coldwater, was organized. For some years before, however, the Chrisitan Scientists had held their regular meetings in the city.

The inclination on the part of the churches of the county to co-operate with each other in various ways for the religious and moral welfare of the people has grown steadily through all the years of its history. This has been exemplified in inter-denominational activity in Sunday schools, in Christian Endeavor Unions, in Young Men's Christian Associations, and in union meetings held on special days, such as Thanksgiving Day and at other times.

March 2, 1887, The Branch County Sunday School Association was organized in Coldwater, or, more correctly, revived, for there had been such an organization years before, though it had ceased its activity for about ten years. The first president was Rev. J. P. Philips, pastor of the Baptist church of Coldwater. Rev. Henry P. Collins was elected secretary at the time, and has served as such for nineteen years.

For several years the Branch County Christian Endeavor Union held its conventions annually, but none has been held since 1903.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Branch County has been in existence for years, and is carrying on its work as actively as ever. In 1905, in connection with the Coldwater Union, it invited the State Association to hold its annual convention at the county seat of the county. The invitation was accepted, and June 5 and 6, 1906, the Thirty-second Annual Convention of the Michigan Woman's Christian Union was held in Coldwater.

CHAPTER XXV.

POLITICAL HISTORY OF BRANCH COUNTY.

Previous to the year 1841, records of the doings of the political parties in Branch county have not been preserved, but in August of that year conventions were held by both the Democratic and Whig parties. August 20 the Democratic convention was held at the court house in Coldwater, and the following delegates were elected to the state convention, to be held in Marshall, September 1: Chas. G. Hammond, John T. Haynes and Enos G. Berry. Wales Adams, Albert Chandler and Hiram Shoudler were elected delegates to the senatorial convention to be held at Albion August 29. According to a call printed in the Coldwater *Sentinel* of August 20, a Whig convention was held August 21, for the purpose of electing delegates to a like convention, but the subsequent issues of the paper contain no account of such a convention being held. The Democratic convention nominated John G. Barry for governor and the Whigs nominated Philo C. Fuller. The Democratic nominees for state senators were Edward A. Warner, of Branch, and Henry Hewitt, of Calhoun. Enos G. Berry was nominated for representative. At the election the following November the county gave Barry a majority of 355.

At the general election held in November, 1844, the county was carried by the Democrats by about 240 majority, electing Wales Adams, representative; Anselum Arnold, sheriff; John T. Haynes, treasurer; Corydon P. Benton, clerk, and Jared Pond, register.

In the fall of 1845 Branch county gave the Democrats a majority of 347 for Alpheus Felch, candidate for governor, but for the first time in the history of the county the Whigs elected a portion of their ticket. George A. Coe, of Coldwater, Whig nominee for state senator, defeated Ephraim B. Danforth by 78 votes, and William B. Sprague, a Whig, was elected representative by a majority of 32 votes. At this election James G. Birney, afterwards famous as an Abolitionist, received 81 votes for governor on the Abolition ticket.

At the November election in 1846 the Democrats elected their entire ticket by majorities ranging from 50 to 300, and in the fall of 1847 the Democratic ticket from governor down received majorities ranging from 301 to 378, with the exception of Enos G. Berry, who was defeated by Geo. A. Coe for the state senate by a majority of 18 votes.

Again in the general election of November, 1848, the Democrats were generally victorious, giving 420 majority for Cass and Butler, nominees for president and vice president. But the Whigs made still further inroads

upon the local Democratic ticket by electing Geo. A. Coe representative by a majority of 17, James Pierson sheriff by 12 majority and Hiram Rathburn Alden treasurer by 13 majority.

In November, 1849, the Democrats gave John S. Barry, their nominee for governor, a majority of 379, but Roland Root, a Whig, was elected representative by a majority of 53 over Henry C. Gilbert.

In November, 1850, the whole Democratic ticket was elected, with the exception of one representative, by majorities ranging from 8 to 600. Jared Pond was defeated by S. L. Lawrence, a Whig. In this election the Free Soilers united with the Whigs upon several candidates.

The election held in the fall of 1851 appears to have been very tame, as only a governor and lieutenant governor were to be elected. The result was that Branch gave Robert McClelland, the Democratic candidate, a majority of 231. At this election only 1,125 votes were cast.

The campaign of 1852 was an exciting one. Party feelings ran high and mass meetings were held by both the Democrats and Whigs. The Democrats gathered in front of the old court house on Monday, October 11, and listened to addresses by Gen. Lewis Cass, Senator Felch and Gov. McClelland, and it was claimed that fully four thousand were in attendance. The Whigs, being in the minority, did not gather in crowds as great as the Democrats, but they were enthusiastic for their ticket, which was headed by Gen. Winfield Scott for president, while the Democrats were hurrahing for Franklin Pierce, who received a majority of 303 votes in the county. The Democrats elected their entire county ticket by majorities of 250 to 350.

During the summer of 1854 the Republican party was organized at Jackson, Michigan, and at the fall election it administered to the Democratic party the first defeat ever known by that organization in Branch county. Kinsley S. Bingham, Republican candidate for governor, received a majority of 734 in the county, and Daniel Wilson, Republican, defeated Ebenezer Butterworth, Democrat, for the office of sheriff, by a majority of 581. For county clerk Eben O. Leach was elected over Albert Chandler and Curtis Young was elected register of deeds over Joseph C. Leonard. For county treasurer Hiran Shoudler defeated Wales Adams, and John W. Turner defeated John G. Parkhurst for the office of prosecuting attorney.

This election was followed by an almost unbroken series of Republican majorities until November, 1878, when the Greenback party, which had lately become quite a power, united with the Democrats on most of their candidates and went into the campaign of 1878 under the name of Nationals. The Republican ticket was again successful with the following exceptions: William H. Donaldson, National, defeated Zelotes G. Osborn, Republican, and Arthur Crippen, Democrat, by a plurality of 153; for representative, C. J. Thorpe, National, was elected over James R. Wilson, Republican, and John Taggart, Democrat, by a plurality of 224. The balance of the Republican county ticket was elected by majorities ranging from 68 to 606. At this election John B. Shipman, who was on both Democratic and National tickets, was elected circuit judge over David B. Thompson, Republican, and Riley,

Democrat, by a plurality of 875. Branch county gave him a majority of only 16 votes, the remainder coming from St. Joseph county. Jonas H. McGowan, of Coldwater, was elected to congress from this district, Branch county giving him a majority of 383 over Upton, Democrat, and Dawson, National.

In November, 1880, the Republicans were entirely successful, electing everything by majorities ranging from 929 to 1722. Charles Upson was elected to congress, Branch giving him a majority of 1188.

In November, 1882, the Greenback party was popular throughout the state, electing Begole by about 800 majority, but Branch stood almost solidly for the Republican ticket, electing everything excepting sheriff and representative in the second district. Oliver C. Campbell, Greenback, was elected sheriff over Geo. W. Van Aken, Republican, by 46 votes, and Emanuel Himebaugh, a Greenback, was elected representative over Richard Coward, Republican, by 17 votes. With these two exceptions the Republican majorities ranged from 143 to 1223.

The campaign of 1884 was closely contested, but the Republicans were again successful in the main, losing only sheriff and prosecuting attorney. Campbell was re-elected sheriff by a majority of 495, and John R. Champion, Greenback, defeated Marc A. Merrifield, Republican, for prosecuting attorney by a majority of 27 votes. In this campaign the votes on the presidential ticket were as follows: James G. Blaine, Republican, 3671; Grover Cleveland, Democrat, 1315; Benjamin F. Butler, Greenback, 1644; John St. John, Prohibition, 419.

The official canvass of the votes cast November 2, 1886, shows a clean sweep for the Republicans. Cyrus G. Luce for governor headed the Republican ticket and received in Branch county a plurality of 758 votes over Geo. L. Yaple, Democrat, and Samuel Dickie, Prohibitionist.

In September, 1888, President Cleveland appointed Gen. John G. Parkhurst minister to Belgium.

In November the county gave a solid Republican majority, honoring Gov. Luce by a plurality of 1284 over Wellington Burt, Democrat. Alfred Milnes, of Coldwater, was elected to the state senate by a plurality of 1380 over Lane, Democrat.

The Democrats were successful in the state in the fall of 1890, electing E. B. Winans governor, but Branch county stood firmly by its long-time Republican majority, giving J. M. Turner, Republican, a plurality of 962 over Winans, and elected their entire county ticket with the exception of prosecuting attorney, in which William H. Compton, Republican, was defeated by Elmer E. Palmer, Democrat, who won by a majority of 672. For state senator Oliver C. Campbell, Democrat, was elected by a plurality of 73. The opposing candidate was Alfred Milnes, Republican, who received 2716, and Edward E. Bostwick, Prohibitionist. The Republican majorities on the balance of the ticket varied from 84 to 1401.

The presidential election of 1892 found Branch solid for the Republican ticket, giving every candidate a plurality, which on the presidential ticket

was 1124. The election of two years later, in 1894, was a repetition of 1892, the Republicans electing everything by increased pluralities.

In the spring of 1895 Alfred Milnes was elected to the national house of representatives to succeed J. C. Burrows, who went to the senate. In this contest Mr. Milnes defeated Calvin J. Thorpe, who was the candidate of the Democratic, Silver and Prohibition parties, his majority being about 1400.

The famous silver campaign of 1896 proved a disaster for the Republicans. After many years of almost unbroken control of the political affairs of the county, they were totally routed by Bryan and his followers. The entire silver ticket was elected by pluralities of from 161 to 368, the latter being A. M. Todd's plurality over Alfred Milnes for congressman. Bryan carried the county by a plurality of 377. Two years later the Republicans regained some of their lost prestige by electing about half of their county ticket, and giving a majority of 105 for their candidate for governor, Hazen S. Pingree.

In 1900 the silver party, again headed by William Jennings Bryan for president, were overwhelmingly defeated by the Republicans, who carried the county for every candidate on their ticket. McKinley polled 880 more votes than Bryan and the Republican candidates on the same ticket averaged about the same number.

In 1902 the party opposed to the Republicans again assumed its old name and the campaign was once more between the Republicans and the Democrats, in which the latter were more overwhelmingly defeated than was the silver party in 1900. The county ticket elected was entirely Republican by a majority of over 1000.

The election on November 8, 1904, was the most decisive defeat the Democrats ever suffered in Branch county. The Republican ticket, headed by Roosevelt for president, carried the county by largely increased majorities. Roosevelt received 2837 more votes than did Parker, the Democratic candidate, and the Republican county ticket was elected by majorities varying from 1799 to 2159.

CHAPTER XXVI.

COURTS AND LAWYERS.

Until Michigan became a state the judicial circuit embracing Branch county covered the entire Michigan Territory, that is, there was only one judicial circuit, and the circuit judge held sessions in all the organized counties. "At a session of the Circuit Court of the Territory of Michigan, holden in and for the county of Branch," is the record for the first circuit court held in this county after it was separately organized from St. Joseph county.

In 1836 Michigan was divided into judicial circuits each presided over by a circuit judge. By the act approved July 26, 1836, the third judicial circuit was organized. The original counties embraced in this circuit were Branch, St. Joseph, Cass, Berrien, Kalamazoo, Allegan, Calhoun, Kent, and all the country attached to any one of these for judicial purposes.

Branch county continued a part of the third circuit until 1851. An act approved April 8th, of that year, created the second circuit of Branch, St. Joseph, Cass and Berrien counties.

On March 6, 1869, the second circuit was divided, Berrien and Cass being constituted one circuit and retaining the name of second circuit, while Branch and St. Joseph were organized as the fifteenth judicial circuit, and as such it has remained to the present time. The late Judge Charles Upson was the first judge of this circuit, serving from 1870 to 1876.

The first constitution of Michigan provided for a county court, intermediate between the justice courts and the circuit court. The first session of the Branch county court was held in Coldwater, March 1, 1847, Jacob Shook being present as second judge, with C. P. Benton, clerk. In consequence of the abolition of this branch of judiciary by the second constitution, the county court adjourned *sine die* December 31, 1851, Justin Lawyer being the last judge.

For several years after the organization of a county government the legal business of the county was transacted by lawyers whose homes were in other counties of the state. The profession of law during the early days was an itinerant one. The court moved about from county seat to county seat over an immense area comprising the judicial circuit, and with the court traveled the attorneys. They traveled by stage coach or horseback according to choice or convenience, and the arrival of the court and its attorneys was an event to be looked forward to by the villagers of the county seat.

Thus, in October, 1833, no little stir and excitement was caused in the little village of Branch when the first session of the circuit court was begun.

The court, which opened on the 21st day of the month, was presided over by William A. Fletcher, who was president judge of the judicial circuit of the territory of Michigan. Associate judges were Silas A. Holbrook, for many years a well known business man of Coldwater, and William A. Kent.

In the minutes of this session is this sentence, "Ordered that Neal McGaffey be prosecuting attorney the present term." Mr. McGaffey may be considered one of the first, if not the first, lawyer who practiced before a court of record in Branch county. But he was not a resident of this county. His home was at White Pigeon, where he lived and died. St. Joseph county, as already mentioned, was for several years the civil and judicial center for a large region which has since been divided into separate counties, including Branch county. Therefore it was natural that the first lawyers who located in this part of the state would settle in St. Joseph county where their professional interests were centered.

But the oldest attorney of this part of the state, was Columbia Lancaster, whose name is mentioned among the attorneys of the April term of 1835 as having business in the Branch county session of the circuit court. Columbia Lancaster was born in Connecticut in 1803, came to White Pigeon in 1830, and on the location of the county seat at Centerville became the first resident of that place. He is said to have taught the second school in Branch county, and in addition to being a lawyer and school teacher was a mighty hunter. He later moved to Washington Territory.

The attorneys mentioned alongside the name of C. Lancaster were Marcus Lane and George W. Jewett (or Jewit, as it was spelled in the records). Marcus Lane came from his home at Ypsilanti to practice in Branch county. On coming to Michigan he had located for practice at Ann Arbor, in 1826. George W. Jewett lived at Ann Arbor, but afterward moved to Niles, where he died.

At the October term of circuit court in 1835 Henry I. Backus sought a license to practice law in the territory of Michigan. Thereupon the judge appointed the attorneys Jewett, Lancaster and Lane a committee to examine the qualifications of Mr. Backus, who had previously practiced in the state of Connecticut, and on examination the committee found the applicant duly qualified, whereupon he was admitted to practice. Mr. Backus was the first attorney admitted to practice in Branch county. Although admitted here, there is no proof that he was a resident lawyer in the county.

In 1837 there came to Coldwater Ezbon G. Fuller who, according to all accepted reports and proofs, was the first resident lawyer of Branch county, although not the first attorney to represent clients in court here. Dying January 14, 1892, at Marysville, California, where he had resided since 1878, Judge E. G. Fuller was at the time of his death nearly eighty-two years old, forty years of which had been passed as a member of the bar of Branch county. He was appointed prosecuting attorney soon after his admission to practice, and later held the office of judge of probate. His practice fell off in later years, nor did he make much effort to keep up with the profession,

but gave much of his time to his farm and the abstract business, until he moved to California.

In the first number of the *Coldwater Sentinel,* dated April, 1841, are the professional cards of E. A. Warner, E. G. Fuller and George A. Coe. These constituted the Branch county bar at that date. The first named had located in Coldwater about 1838. He died about 1845, while still young. George A. Coe had begun his professional career in Coldwater, and during the thirty years before his death in 1869 he attained unusual prominence. Besides holding various local offices he was a member of both branches of the legislature, and in 1854 and 1856 was lieutenant governor of the state.

The calendar of the Branch county court in 1847 contains the following attorneys who appeared in cases tried in that year: H. C. Gilbert, W. Brown, Louis T. N. Wilson, E. G. Fuller, George A. Coe, Justin Lawyer, Justus Goodwin, E. G. Parsons, D. Darwin Hughes, A. Piatt, E. J. Hard, John Root, C. B. Dresser, A. French and J. W. Gilbert.

Of these, L. T. N. Wilson studied his law in the office of Mr. Coe at Coldwater. He was identified with Coldwater until his death, April 26, 1887.

The name of Justin Lawyer, above mentioned with the attorneys of 1847, will long be honored in Coldwater not so much for his connection with the law as for his relation with business and public affairs. He did not practice long, but turned his attention to banking and other interests. "The public had confidence in his ability to do things thoroughly and well," is the most impressive tribute to his life and character. He was connected with several public enterprises, among them the city water works, of which he was superintendent at the time of his death, March 13, 1894.

Passing over almost a generation of time, to the year 1875, we find many changes in the personnel of the county bar. The roll of Branch county attorneys in 1875, as given in a court calendar of that year, is as follows: (The names are mentioned in order of seniority) Ezbon G. Fuller, Charles Upson, David B. Dennis, Caleb D. Randall, David Thompson, John W. Turner, John R. Champion, W. J. Bowen, Franklin E. Morgan, J. H. McGowan, J. B. Shipman, Noah P. Loveridge, Justin Lawyer, J. G. Parkhurst, F. L. Skeels, C. N. Legg, C. E. Thornton, H. H. Barlow, C. D. Wright, S. B. Kitchel, all of Coldwater. Ezra Berry was from Quincy, while Union City was represented by Jerome Bowen, M. A. Merrifield and George Styles.

Judge Charles Upson (see sketch), who died September 5, 1885, at the age of sixty-four, was once referred to in the early sixties as "the leading attorney of southwestern Michigan." He was well versed in the common and statute law, was energetic in all that he did, and had the respect of the entire bar of Branch county.

Caleb D. Randall, who died September 1, 1903, was for many years influential in business and the law. He was born in Cayuga county, New York, in 1831, a son of Dr. Alvah Randall, the pioneer physician of Bronson, who has been mentioned elsewhere. Studying law, he began practice about 1855, but did very little active legal work after the war. He was successful

as a pension claim agent, and in 1870 was elected to the state senate. He took part in the organization of the Southern Michigan National Bank, and for some years before as well as subsequent to that time he gave little attention to legal practice. Although noted for his business conservatism, he suffered severe reverses and had to relinquish most of his interests. His work in education and the charities, and his zeal in all matters affecting the public interest are attested in various places in this history.

David Thompson was another pioneer lawyer who prepared for his profession in Coldwater. He was associated with Charles Upson during the early sixties, and in 1864 was elected judge of probate, and later served as circuit judge to fill a vacancy. Judge Thompson has been characterized as a most kindly man, of easy approach, with little shrewdness and no closeness in financial matters. His easy going methods prevented him from accumulating money, but he was always a respected figure in the community. He became a clerk under the government at Washington, and died at Coldwater, February 19, 1896.

All the old settlers as well as the members of the bar knew and liked John W. Turner, whose most prominent characteristics were a jovial, genial nature, a natural eloquence, and a poetic temperament that sometimes manifested itself in verse. Quick at repartee and relying more on the inspiration of the occasion than attention to details, he was noted, during his early career, as a strong advocate before a jury. He died at the age of seventy years, August 11, 1888.

Willard J. Bowen, who is also deceased, was a graduate in law from the University of Michigan, a member of the same class with Franklin E. Morgan. His practice was limited, for he soon directed his attention to other matters, for awhile doing a business in prosecuting war claims, and later became a member of the banking firm of Rose, Bowen & Rose. Eventually he went to Texas, where he had a career in business and politics, and where he died.

Jerome Bowen, who, as elsewhere related, was at one time connected with the Coldwater *Republican,* was practicing law during the seventies in Union City, and from there went to Manistee.

J. H. McGowan, who died in Washington, where he lived after serving as a representative from his Michigan district, was a self-made, college-bred lawyer. A poor, hard-working college boy, he yet had the popular qualities and the ability to mingle with his fellows to such a degree that he was received into the societies of wealth of the university. In practice he was noted for his ability in cross examination, and could direct a fire of questions with such rapidity as has seldom been equaled. He was successful in his profession, and stood high in the community because of his clean, pure record.

The death of Noah P. Loveridge on June 26, 1900, took away another of the lawyers who had come to Coldwater during the sixties. He had a successful practice from the start, and was associated for a number of years with Judge J. B. Shipman. He stood high in public affairs, and, like his associate, held the office of judge of the fifteenth judicial circuit.

One by one the county bar of 1875 has been diminished by death. Ezra Berry, the Quincy attorney at that time, and since deceased, was a member of the well known pioneer family of that village. He had been admitted to the bar in 1846, and a large part of his business career was spent in other affairs.

C. D. Wright was a Coldwater boy, who was admitted to the bar there, and later went west to Los Angeles, where he acquired a competence mainly by successful investment, and died in that city. F. L. Skeels, who was an active member of the profession for some years, and is now deceased, was a Yale graduate, which was an uncommon distinction for the lawyer of that time. He served four years as prosecuting attorney of the county.

Only recently, and while this work has been in process of compilation, two others whose names appear in the above roll have passed away, namely, S. B. Kitchel and Gen. J. G. Parkhurst, whose careers are sketched elsewhere.

Two other early lawyers might be mentioned. One was M. S. Bowen, who came during the sixties, and remained only a few years. His best remembered characteristic was his fondness for the legal quibble, and he often clouded the judgment of both judge and jury with a shower of technicalities and whimsical objections. The other character was E. S. Jennings, the "tramp lawyer," who was possessed of a facile and persuasive eloquence. It is said that this enabled him to borrow a large sum of money from a dozen or more persons about the same time. He then went to Nebraska, where he invested in land, became prosperous, and, to his credit let it be said, met all his obligations in full.

In the roll of 1875 may be found the oldest members of the present bar. Since the death of Gen. Parkhurst, John R. Champion is the oldest lawyer in the county. He has been here since before the war. At one time he was considered one of the able criminal lawyers of the county, but in later years had a general practice.

Time has also dealt kindly with Franklin E. Morgan, who was one of the early graduates from the University of Michigan law department, and who came here in 1863. Although a member of the bar for forty years, until his retirement in January, 1904, he was never in active court practice. He had an office business, largely in real estate and loans, and represented outside capital and some estates in Coldwater. When local capital became sufficient to meet all the demands, his business in that direction, which had been quite remunerative, declined, and thereafter until his retirement he carried on an office law practice.

Judge John B. Shipman, whose career is sketched on another page, is still a leader of the Branch county bar, with over forty years of active practice behind him, part of which time he was circuit judge.

Others whose names are mentioned elsewhere are the well known attorneys Charles N. Legg, H. H. Barlow, both of Coldwater, and M. A. Merrifield and George Styles of Union City.

A study of the careers of Branch county's legal profession would seem to indicate that business and the law have generally gone hand in hand, or

that a ready transfer of activity has been possible from one to the other. It was one of the observations of the Hon. James Bryce, author of the *"American Commonwealth,"* on the occasion of his recent visit to this country, that the lawyers in this country were turning more and more of their attention to general forms of business and devoting themselves less exclusively to their profession. In a county the size of Branch the special departments of the law have of course never furnished enough business for one man, and the practice has been what is termed "general." A few have developed aptitude as pleaders, or in criminal prosecution, or in consultation practice.

As one comes down the consecutive decades since the pioneer courts were held in Branch county he finds an increasing per cent. of college trained lawyers. And the requirements for graduation at the ordinary law school of forty years ago have been raised from time to time, so that the preparation for the legal profession has been broadened and diversified to keep pace with the enlarged arena which is now occupied by the law. The home-schooled aspirant of sixty years ago would read a few volumes in the office of one whom he chose to call his "preceptor," and would then go before a committee of local attorneys appointed by the circuit court, as was the case with the first lawyer admitted to practice in Branch county. The members of this committee, though practical lawyers, not often possessed ability as examiners, and the questions asked of the applicant seldom touched the depths of law and were often irrelevant.

But at Ann Arbor, even fifty years ago, the law student after completing his courses was put through a six days' test of oral examination, conducted by such eminent men as Judge Campbell, Judge Cooley, Judge I. C. Walker, Judge E. C. Walker of Detroit, and Judge Stacey of Tecumseh. After successfully passing this battery of questioners it was likely that the applicant would ever afterward have a high respect for the dignity of his profession and be well qualified for its duties.

Passing along two decades from the roll of 1875, it will be interesting to notice a similar list of Branch county attorneys for the year 1895. They are—

At Coldwater: D. B. Dennis, C. D. Randall, J. R. Champion, F. E. Morgan, J. B. Shipman, N. P. Loveridge. J. G. Parkhurst, H. C. Clark, H. H. Barlow, S. B. Kitchel, N. A. Reynolds, C. N. Legg, William H. Compton, M. D. Campbell, F. D. Newberry, D. M. Wells, J. S. Evans, H. C. Loveridge, Melvin E. Peters, L. F. Humphrey, E. E. Palmer, C. C. Johnson, C. U. Champion, A. L. Locke, C. F. Howe, E. H. Loveridge, E. E. Killinger, B. C. Thorpe, Leroy Palmer.

From Quincy the following: W. H. Lockerby, A. L. Kinney, E. D. Lockerby.

And from Union City: M. A. Merrifield, George Styles.

The changes in the personnel during twenty years had been many, but the roll for 1895 almost represents the present membership of the bar, as will be seen by reference to the roll of attorneys for 1906, herewith given:

J. G. Parkhurst (deceased); John R. Champion, Coldwater, Franklin

E. Morgan, Coldwater; John B. Shipman, Coldwater; Henry C. Clark, Coldwater; H. H. Barlow, Coldwater; Norman A. Reynolds, Coldwater; Charles N. Legg, Coldwater; Milo D. Campbell, Coldwater; Frank D. Newberry, Coldwater; John S. Evans, Coldwater; Henry C. Loveridge, Coldwater; Leonard F. Humphrey, Coldwater; Elmer E. Palmer, Coldwater; Clayton C. Johnson, Coldwater; Charles U. Champion, Coldwater; Charles F. Howe, Coldwater; Ernest H. Loveridge, Coldwater; Leroy Palmer, Coldwater; Frank B. Reynolds, Coldwater; Mark S. Andrews, Coldwater; William H. Lockerby, Quincy; M. A. Merrifield, Union City; George Styles, Union City; Milo Thompson, Bronson; A. L. Locke, Bronson; H. J. Barton, Union City; W. Glenn Cowell, Quincy; A. Riley Crittendon, Coldwater; Perry J. Ashdown, Union City; Bert. E. Barlow, Coldwater; O. M. Bowen, Bronson; W. Edwin Hodgman, Coldwater.

According to the records, the members of the bar of Branch County met at the home of Hon. C. D. Randall, February 2, 1903, for the purpose of reorganizing the Bar Association for Branch County. Pres. C. D. Randall of the old association was in the chair, and in the absence of Secretary Champion, F. B. Reynolds was secretary pro tem. A committee on articles of association reported as follows: "Whereas, the records containing the constitution and proceedings of the original association have been lost, said association having been in existence nearly half a century and many of the members thereof having been among the most eminent lawyers of the state; therefore, for the purpose of continuing and perpetuating said Bar Association, we report for your consideration the following form of constitution, etc."

This gives the past history of the association, although it seems that the committee was in error as to the time the old association had existed, a quarter of a century being nearer the correct time than half a century. Only two elections have been held up to the time of this writing, and the same officers were chosen at both meetings, namely: Gen. J. G. Parkhurst, president; H. H. Barlow, vice president; Wallace E. Wright, secretary, the county clerk being by provision of the constitution secretary of the association, and the present secretary therefore being Henry E. Straight; F. B. Reynolds, treasurer; E. E. Palmer, C. U. Champion and Mark S. Andrews, executive committee.

The association has been called together several times to pass resolutions on the death of prominent members. October 5th following the organization, they met on the occasion of the death of Caleb D. Randall; in January 1905, on the death of William H. Compton; in August, 1905, after the death of Simon B. Kitchel, and in May, 1906, when the president, Gen. Parkhurst, passed away.

CHAPTER XXVII.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

A chapter on the medical profession of Branch county must of course be largely biographical. It is in the men who have practiced medicine in the county that the chief interest centers. Therefore this chapter may be confined to an orderly mention of the members of the profession past and present and a brief description of some of the contrasted conditions that distinguish medical practices of pioneer times from that of the present.

The pioneer doctor had a wide and varied sphere of activity. The settlers were comparatively few and were scattered here and there over a large area. The practice coming from half the county no more than justified one physician in devoting all his time to professional duties. Thus Dr. Alvah Randall, the pioneer physician of Bronson, who settled in that township in 1835, was the only doctor in a country covered by a radius of ten miles from his home. When the pioneers of Gilead needed a physician they sent for Dr. Randall, who came over the new-made and rough roads that led through the woods and across the marshes to the cabins of Gilead. And the same was true in the other surrounding townships.

On the other side of the county, in Quincy, Dr. Enos G. Berry filled a similar and contemporary position. He had come to the township in 1835, at the age of twenty-two. A former biography says of him, "He visited the poor and destitute without charge, and took no mortgages or other securities of those unable to pay, but gave them such time as their circumstances required; and, with other duties, continued the practice of medicine for about thirty years." This character of generosity and sympathy is the crowning tribute to the pioneer doctors. Compared with present day standards, their skill and knowledge was small. But of largeness of heart and of the old quality of loving-kindness they had an abundance that rendered their ministrations in sickness and trouble effectual where greater skill would not have availed.

In the north part of the county, at Union City, the pioneer work in medicine was done by the Hurd brothers, of whom there were, during the thirties and forties, three whose practice covered a large territory in Branch and Calhoun counties. Theodore C. and William P. Hurd, the latter locating at Union City in 1840 and the former some time previous, were men of high professional standards and with natural inclination for their work. Shortly after the death of Theodore C. Hurd in 1845 another brother, Henry S., located in Union City.

All these physicians lived in the "saddle-bag" period. They traveled

about on horseback, with their saddle-bags filled with medicine—principally quinine and calomel—and a few surgical appliances then in use. There were no telephones to use in calling the doctor, and a horseback rider galloping to town became the accepted signal to all the neighbors along the route that some one was ill at the rider's home and the latter was "going for the doctor." In reaching his patient the physician often had a long ride, in the very early days over a way marked by blazed trees, with toilsome detours around swamps or in order to cross a stream swollen by recent rains. Add the many hardships imposed by darkness and storm and bitter cold, and it is easy to point the contrast between conditions of practice sixty years ago and now.

Another point alluded to by a well known member of the profession in Branch county is that there was very little "office practice" among the early doctors. The numerous "chronic" afflictions that are familiar by name if not by personal experience to people of this age were hardly apprehended at that time. Chills and fevers brought on by the miasmas of the swamps or new-plowed soil were regularly expected each year in the "sickly season." The remedies were quinine and calomel, given in such quantities as would appall our physicians in modern practice. Not one grain of these drugs is given now where forty were prescribed less than half a century ago. Though their duties of diagnosis and prescription were thus comparatively light, the doctors generally visited the patients in their homes, and few made any effort to maintain a regularly appointed office and definite office hours.

Turning now to the center of the county, at Coldwater we find the field of medical practice covered at an early date, the representatives of the profession being continuous from 1830. Dr. William Henry is said to have been the first, while contemporaneous with part of his career in Coldwater was Dr. Enoch Chase, a man of considerable prominence, though he remained in this county only until 1834.

One of the familiar streets in Coldwater that intersects Chicago street is Hanchett street, so named in honor of the pioneer doctor, William Hanchett, who came to Coldwater in 1832. For nearly twenty years he remained at the head of the profession in the county. In 1846 he associated with himself in practice his nephew, Dr. S. S. Cutter, another well known physician, who died about 1882. These men were not alone active in their profession, but a perusal of these pages and of former historical works on Branch county will show their names mentioned in connection with numerous undertakings of importance. They erected the first high-grade hotel structure in Coldwater, the old Franklin House, which was afterward burned and which stood where the Arlington is now located, at the corner of Chicago and Hanchett streets. Dr. Hanchett practiced here until the middle of the century, when he moved out west and died in Oregon.

The careers of all these early physicians have been sketched in the History of 1879, and it is only necessary to recall the names of some of them. These were: Dr. Darwin Littlefield, whose name will be mentioned later in connection with the first organized movement for the advancement of the medical profession in Branch county, as also the name of Dr. H. B. Stillman,

whose signature as county clerk is to be found on many records in the court house. In the same connection will be found the name of Dr. Mathew Gill.

The shuttle of time is continually removing the old and replacing with the new, and so we find that the greater number of the physicians who were in active practice at the time of the publication of the former history of the county are now dead or retired, and a new generation has succeeded them. Dr. S. S. Cutter was one of the first to pass away after the appearance of the former history. His career was intimately identified with Coldwater. He was the first mayor after its incorporation as a city; he was a member of the special commission appointed to investigate the state charitable institution, and one of the results of the recommendations of that commission was the establishment of the State Public School in Coldwater; he took a prominent part in local education, and his activity belonged to the general history of the city rather than to any one particular chapter.

Another physician who has passed away was Chester S. Tucker, who left his extensive property interests, acquired in practice and business, to the Home Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church. Dr. D. C. Powers, who died November 4, 1887, was also versatile in his interests. He came to Coldwater before the war, served in the army as a surgeon, was at one time mayor of the city, was a director of the Southern Michigan National Bank, and gave considerable time to matters of public welfare. On February 24, 1902, death claimed Dr. James M. Long, who had been in Coldwater since 1861, and was ranked along with the others just mentioned. Of the same group was Dr. George K. Smith, who had begun his practice in Coldwater in 1852, and after an absence of some years and activity in other lines, he resumed practice in 1869.

When in his prime the late Isaac P. Alger was one of the leading physicians of Branch county. Dying at his home in Coldwater, April 18, 1904, he was then in his eighty-fourth year, and was a Branch county pioneer by virtue of over sixty years' residence within the county. He studied medicine with Drs. Hanchett and Stillman at Coldwater, beginning his practice in the forties. He was one of the first students of Rush Medical College of Chicago. Dr. Alger was noted for his public spirit, and his interest in pioneer affairs and the history of his county continued till his death.

Along with the names of Dr. S. S. Cutter and Dr. Alger as physicians of the pioneer period stands that of John H. Beach, who began practice in Coldwater in 1849 and continued until his death in 1878. As already indicated, the practice of the early physicians was of a general nature, and there were no specialists in the county until very recently. But Dr. Beach, while having a general practice, excelled as a surgeon, and that at a time when the science of surgery had hardly begun to develop. He served as a regimental surgeon during the war, and after his return to Coldwater his skill as a surgeon was in constant demand both at home and in various parts of the state.

The decade of the eighties saw the passing of the pioneer doctor of Union City, William P. Hurd, who died October 10, 1881. Others were Dr. Thomas Cody, of Batavia, who died April 12, 1882; Dr. M. E. Chaun-

cey, who was the first physician of Girard, beginning practice there in 1843, and died May 7, 1884; Israel Wheeler, of Gilead, who died October 4, 1887, aged seventy-four.

During the nineties there passed away Charles Reading, of Quincy, July 2, 1891, at the age of eighty-six; Jesse L. Cady, at Coldwater, June 21, 1892; Edward Twiss, at Union City, May 12, 1895, aged seventy; Thomas W. Watkins, at Quincy, June 28, 1896; Dennis W. Rogers, at Union City, January 24, 1898; Timothy Baker, at Union City, February 20, 1898, aged eighty-one years; Dorr Fitzgerald, who had been in Union City since the seventies, on August 27, 1898, aged seventy-eight; and Jay Wright, at Union City, May 3, 1899.

October 24, 1897, ended the remarkable career of William B. Sprague, after living one hundred years, seven months and twenty-six days. Graduating from the medical college at Fairfield, New York, in 1826, in the spring of 1835 he came to Coldwater in company with Bradley Crippen, Philo H. Crippen, L. D. Crippen, James Fiske and Rev. Francis Smith. He was in active practice only a few years, but he early became connected with public affairs, being an associate judge of the circuit court in 1836, was also judge of probate and a member of the legislature. He was in all respects a pioneer, and as author of articles on pioneer life, among others "The Origin of the City of Coldwater," he contributed much to the permanent historical knowledge of the county.

Lansing C. Marsh, who began practice in Coldwater in 1853, died in Coldwater October 14, 1900, at the mature age of seventy-nine. Dr. Cornelius H. Woodcox, who first practiced in Gilead and later resided in Coldwater, died April 21, 1903, and on January 4, 1904, Coldwater lost Dr. Daniel S. Cunningham. November 12, 1904, Quincy lost Francis E. Marsh, who had practiced there for over twenty-five years, and was seventy years old at the time of his death. Less than a year later, on March 28, 1905, occurred the death of Hawkins A. King at Quincy, at the age of seventy-six. He had also been connected with the medical profession of that village a number of years. The most recent loss by death to the medical profession of the county was Dr. Eva J. Outwater, who died at Bronson January 9, 1906.

The older physicians have nearly all gone, and there are only a few whose careers in the county go back twenty-five years. In Coldwater the group of older physicians would include Stephen H. Clizbe, who has been practicing in the county since 1870 and in Coldwater for twenty-seven years; L. A. Warsabo, who has been in the city about the same length of time, and William Wilson and Newton Baldwin. In Quincy Dr. Edson Blackman has been in practice about thirty years. Dr. Henry P. Mowry has been registered at Bronson since 1883.

In January, 1900, the new law went into effect requiring the registration of all physicians practiciing in the county to be made with the county clerk. In the book kept for that purpose will be found the names of the practitioners residing in the county at that time as well as subsequent regis-

trations. From this record the names of those registered for practice in the different localities of the county have been compiled.

In the city of Coldwater the physicians in order of registry are as follows:

Newton R. Baldwin, L. A. Warsabo, E. T. Gamble, Othello Waters, Thomas J. Turner, David H. Wood, Daniel D. Cunningham, James M. Long, George Ferguson, George D. Slocum, William Wilson, A. G. Holbrook, Frank G. Legge, Samuel Schultz, Dana G. Cook, Isaac P. Alger, Cornelius H. Woodcox, Lansing C. Marsh (who died in 1900), Howard A. Grube, F. W. Stewart, Dresser B. Vincent, George V. Voorhees, Stephen H. Clizbe (who moved to Coldwater in 1902), James B. Reece, John D. Buskirk (since removed), Dwight C. Crawford, E. E. Schwartz (osteopath), William W. Swett, James M. Cushman; recent certificates filed are those of L. B. Hawes (osteopath), Eudora V. Hallam, Edward R. Williams, Sadie L. Olmsted, E. S. Samm, James C. Valentine.

Those registering from Union City were:

Arthur S. Cornell (since removed), William C. Henderson, Silas B. Frankhauser (since removed), Edward H. Hurd (a nephew of the pioneer doctor, W. P. Hurd), Cora B. Cornell (since removed), A. Dorothea Payne (removed), J. P. Jones and Estelle Jones, who registered in 1904.

At Kinderhook those registered were Wilbur A. Griffith (now in Coldwater), Lafayette Scheidler, Fred H. Harris.

At Girard were G. S. Gillet (who removed to Union City), Frank B. Marshall (removed), Edwin M. Chauncey, Ernest E. Hancock.

Matteson was represented by Morgan Shafer, who died December 30, 1901.

Batavia furnishes the name of George A. McMasters to the record.

At Bethel were William H. Baldwin (since removed to Quincy), and John W. Martin.

From the village of Sherwood were registered Robert Fraser, Charles E. Nelthrope, and, in 1904, Clyde A. Leonard, and, in 1905, F. W. Clements.

South Butler is the registered address of J. D. Bennett.

The names from Bronson are Seymour M. Cornell, Levi Sanders, Pyrl Gunsaullus, John E. Outwater, Henry P. Mowry, Eva J. Outwater, and, in 1904, Samuel Turner, and, in 1906, W. P. Mowry.

At Quincy, Edson Blackman, J. M. Blackman, Henry W. Whitmore, Charles S. Sears, James J. Williams, Francis E. Marsh, and, in 1905, Carl S. Sears.

East Gilead was represented by Francis Rupright.

California town furnishes the name of Ezra J. Ayers.

Though the present century has been termed the age of conventions and associations, in which almost every pursuit or profession has become a nucleus of affiliation of those having that common interest, yet organization for professional advancement and social benefits was tried in Branch county by members of the medical profession as long as sixty-five years ago.

One of the few items of local interest in the first issue of the Cold-

water *Sentinel*, dated April 16, 1841, records a meeting of the physicians and surgeons of Branch county held at the court house in the village of Branch to organize the "Branch County Medical Society." Those who took part in this organization were: Darwin Littlefield, Mathew Gill, Henry B. Stillman, Lofus Hyatt and William P. Hurd. Dr. Littlefield was elected president, Dr. Hyatt vice president, Dr. Gill secretary, Dr. Stillman treasurer, leaving Dr. Hurd as the only unofficial member. The annual meeting of this society was set for May, and so far as known the meetings were held for a few years. But eventually the society became moribund, and for many years its activity was intermittent if there was any at all.

Some four or five years ago a complete reorganization of medical societies took place. Each county in the state of Michigan now has an official county medical society, membership in which is open to all physicians of the county upon payment of the membership fee of two dollars a year. By virtue of his membership in the county society each physician is a member of the Michigan State Medical Society. By the system of representation each county society is entitled to send two delegates to the annual session of the state society. The election of these delegates to the state body is at present the only official activity of the Branch County Medical Society, and the organization may be called active only so far as to comply with the regulations affecting a subordinate body of the state society. There is an annual election of officers, and those serving at the present writing, May, 1906, are Dr. S. H. Clizbe, president, and Dr. S. Schultz, secretary and treasurer. The highest representative organization in American medicine is the American Medical Association. Its membership is made up of members of the various state societies and, therefore, of the county societies. So it is seen that membership in the county society is the first degree that must be taken before any higher organization may be reached.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

FRATERNITIES AND CLUBS.

Tyre Lodge No. 18, F. & A. M., the oldest fraternal organization in Coldwater, was organized April 1, 1847, with the following as charter members: John T. Haynes, Amos Bacon, Henry Buell, Samuel P. Noyes, Ichabod Davis, James Shoecraft, Myall P. Comstock, Elisha Warren, Bradley Crippen, William Keyes, Samuel Etheridge, Ira Bronson, Levi Daggett. The lodge now has a membership of three hundred and thirty-five, and the present officers are: W. M., George H. Phinney; S. W., G. C. Kleindinst; J. W., H. A. Close; Treasurer, W. E. Hodgeman; Secretary, C. D. Sutton; S. D., C. J. Moore; J. D., M. J. Van Aken; Stewards, F. C. Faulkerson, John Ball.

Jacobs Commandery No. 10, K. T., Coldwater, was organized March 3, 1860, in response to a petition signed by Sir Knights F. T. Eddy, Wales Adams, N. L. Southworth, A. G. Rose, J. A. Rose, C. H. Putnam, R. H. Drake, Artemas Allen, S. L. Dart, Lyman Sleeper, who were the charter members. Its present officers are: C. E. Wise, E. C.; A. E. Pearce, Gen.; F. J. Dart, C. G.; H. B. George, Prel.; E. A. Brown, S. W.; F. D. Atwater, J. W.; H. A. Close, Treas.; B. F. Rolph, Rec.; G. E. Kleindinst, St'd B.; L. E. Lockwood, Sw. B.; Charles G. Moore, War.; A. R. Grove, Sent. The commandery now has a membership of one hundred and forty-six. The membership in 1860 was 21, in 1870 was 70, in 1880 was 74, in 1890 was 96, in 1900 was 110.

Temple Chapter No. 21, R. A. M., Coldwater, was chartered November 10, 1858, with the following members: J. H. Beech, Artemas Allen, S. L. Dart, R. H. Drake, J. B. Stevenson, E. Mather, A. McCrea, E. Perry, Levi Dygatt, L. N. Southworth, Wales Adams, Daniel Burns. The present officers are: C. D. Sutton, K. P.; H. A. Close, K.; C. E. Wise, S.; B. L. Van Aken, Treas.; B. M. Fellows, Secy.; W. H. Simons, C. H.; B. F. Rolph, P. S.; E. A. Brown, R. A. C.; O. Waters, M. 3 V.; L. E. Lockwood, M. 2 V.; F. R. Fiske, M. 1 V.; A. R. Groves, Sent.

Mount Moriah Council No. 31, Royal and Select Masons, was formed in November, 1859, under a dispensation granted by the T. I. P. G. of the state of Michigan, its first officers being as follows: T. I. G. M., S. L. Dart; D. I. G. M., M. Mansfield; P. C. of W., R. H. Drake; C. of G., J. B. Steven-

*The data concerning lodges and societies was sought by letters and in some cases personal requests. The precise information could not be obtained in every instance, and a number of excellent organizations are not noticed because no replies were made to the requests.

son; G. S., D. Bovee; Recorder, F. T. Eddy; Treasurer, A. Allen.

Coldwater has the honor of having the oldest Eastern Star Chapter in the state, it being Number 1.

Sherwood Lodge No. 428, F. & A. M., was organized August 16, 1897, with these charter members: W. B. Chiesman, W. E. Hanna, H. J. Fonner, G. H. Seymour, C. B. Wilcox, Henry Runyan, C. E. Swain, A. R. Klose, H. J. Klose, Daniel McCarty, L. P. Wilcox, Frank Thoms, E. W. Watkins, J. F. McIntyre, Robert Fraser. The present officers are: W. M., R. Fraser; S. W., F. W. Clement; J. W., E. H. Warner; Treas., Fred Hass; Secretary, H. Runyan; S. D., Daniel McCarty; J. D., F. Tillotson; Stewards, Irving Evert, Wm. Wrigglesworth; Tyler, L. P. Lovejoy.

Centennial Rebekah Lodge No. 22, at Coldwater, was instituted March 30, 1876 (hence the name), with the following charter members: W. H. and Mary Allen, Alfred and Lucina Milnes (Mr. Milnes being the first noble grand), R. D. and Eliza J. Jefferds, William and Sarah Sawyer, L. M. and M. J. Grey, L. B. and Laura A. Gibbs, Charles and Etta Johnson, Fred and Mrs. Chaffer, J. P. and R. A. Flynn, Robert and Louisa Willis, Leroy and Laura Butler, William and Hattie M. Hurst, R. C. Sawdey, Mary J. Barnes, Josie Henderson. The present officers are: Sarah Withington, N. G.; Charlotte Clement, V. G.; Ida Mix, Rec. Sec.; Hattie Sherwood, Fin. Sec.; Lizzie Smith, Treas. Starting with a membership of 27, the lodge now has 165 members in good standing.

The Odd Fellows are one of the oldest fraternities in Coldwater, the other three branches, from which no data were furnished, being Coldwater Lodge No. 31, I. O. O. F., Canton Milnes No. 2, P. M. of I. O. O. F., and Encampment No. 86.

Lodge No. 62, A. O. U. W., of Coldwater, was instituted March 3, 1879, with the following charter members: J. Clark Pierce, David B. Purinton, William B. Keller, Henry A. Wolcott, James R. Dickey, George B. Tompkins, Howard Broadhead, Lewis A. Peckham, Samuel R. Luxmore, Warren A. Blye, Frank A. Fisk, L. H. Edgerton, A. D. Snyder, A. W. Buckley, Albert Johnson, Lansing M. Gray, Cyrus H. Burghardt, Charles W. Fairbanks, George W. Lee, Alonzo J. Munyon, Isaac E. Ives, John J. Lewis, Allen Vanderhoof, George H. Turner, Mortimer L. Knowles, David B. Hurst, William H. Stevens, Isaac Vanderhoof, Oscar W. Lee, Robert Watson, Henry Gage, Frederick W. Flandermeyer, Jerome S. Wolcott, Jefferson S. Conover, Earnest D. Lenders, Levi M. Reynolds.

Excelsior Tent No. 104, K. O. T. M., Coldwater, was organized November 23, 1903, with the following as charter members: William H. Allen, George Clegg, F. J. Dart, Henry W. Driskell, Perry W. Ellinger, Frank Finch, Arthur Fonda, George Faust, Dr. B. R. Ferguson, Fred W. Fish, Wilber French, Lewis H. Fellers, Dr. E. F. Gamble, George M. Howe, Seymour Kleindinst, Gerry Kleindinst, Clarence E. King, F. E. Lyon, G. A. Jewell, C. E. Jewell, John T. Pickhaver, A. A. Steller, James R. Stewart, Peter Sandt, C. L. Sawyer, Fred S. Sisco, John Soderquist, Samuel Stone, Dr. Samuel Schultz, E. H. Williams. The present officers are: Past Com-

mander, G. E. Kleindinst; Commander, William T. Stansell; Lieutenant Commander, S. H. Kleindinst; Record Keeper, L. H. Fellers; Finance Keeper, George Clegg; Chaplain, Charles Knapp; Master-at-Arms, H. W. Driskell; First Master of Guards, Peter Parshall; Second Master of Guards, L. W. Burch; Sentinel, George M. Howe; Picket, George Faust. The tent has a membership of 31.

Coldwater Hive No. 138, L. O. T. M., was organized February 13, 1892, with the following as charter members: Myra Barron, Locelia Bingham, Cora E. Brown, Mary E. Bracket, Mary L. Broughton, Ida J. Close, Mary S. Chapman, Rose B. Carpenter, Mary E. Crippen, Minnie J. Cook, Anna L. Gowdy, Jennie E. Green, Vurbia M. Kleindinst, May Kleindinst, Mary A. Maynard, Caroline McCarty, Luella J. Robinson, Mary E. Smith, Celia Swaffield, Belle Schmedlen, Katie C. Turrill, Lutie M. Twist, Kittie F. Warsabo, Hattie A. Wells, Ella A. Yapp. The present officers are: Past Commander, Sophronia Huested; Commander, Mary E. Crippen; Lieutenant Commander, Lutie M. Twist; Record Keeper, Cora E. Brown; Finance Keeper, Mary A. Maynard; Chaplain, Dora Kinsman; Sergeant, Minnie Grundy; Mistress-at-Arms, Katie Jackson; Sentinel, Josephine Jepson; Picket, Nettie Quackenbush.

Union City Chapter No. 53, R. A. M., was formed under dispensation in 1867, and the first meeting was held on July 25, with the following members, also their title of office: Edwin Perry, H. P.; Rodney Simons, K.; W. H. Kerr, S.; Albert Ferris, C. of H.; A. B. Aiken, P. S.; S. Rogers, R. A. C.; Ira Hitchcock, M. of 3 V.; O. A. Cogswell, M. of 2 V.; J. D. Spoor, M. of 1 V.; and Edwin Johnson, making ten members in all. A. B. Aiken was also acting secretary. Of this list of members one is still living, Rodney Simons, who resides at Athens, and when Athens chapter was instituted he withdrew from Union City chapter to join in forming the new chapter at that place, and is at the present time holding the office of King in Athens chapter. At the first meeting U. D. eleven petitions were presented. Two of the petitioners at that time are living, Burr Osborn and C. D. Leach. This chapter was granted a charter at the following session of Grand Chapter on January 8, 1868. Up to this time twelve members had been added, making a membership at the time the charter was granted of twenty-two.

As the present time the chapter has a nice room well furnished, and the chapter is in a flourishing condition, sixty-five members, with the following officers: Charles E. Day, H. P.; J. S. Nesbitt, K.; C. H. Lowell, S.; J. W. Martin, C. of H.; W. M. Hatch, P. S.; B. W. Bray, R. A. C.; L. D. Wilcox, M. of 3 V.; H. W. Rowe, M. of 2 V.; W. H. Barrett, M. of 1 V.; M. F. Buell, Treas.; H. J. Fonner, Sec.; G. W. Blackwell, Sent.

Union City Council No. 37, R. & S. M., was organized February 9, 1871. It now has a membership of seventy-eight, and its present officers are: Leon A. Johnson, T. I. M.; J. W. Martin, D. M.; J. H. Anderson, P. C. W.; L. D. Wilcox, Treas.; F. H. Whiting, Rec.; H. J. Tanner, C. of G.;

J. S. Nesbitt, C. of C.; C. E. Doy, Stew.; George Blackwell, Sent.

St. Joseph Tent No. 93, K. O. T. M., Union City, was organized in April, 1883, with the following as charter members: George E. Smith, Martin F. Buell, William H. Bond, A. M. Lester, H. H. Rowe, D. J. Easton, E. H. Hurd, J. J. Banford, Charles Johnson, Marcellus Morrell, M. P. Maxon, Caleb Padgham, E. S. Bronson, G. W. Miller, L. D. McLaflin, H. G. Fisk, A. L. Saunders, C. H. Spring, P. R. Shuler, M. D. Slocum, C. A. Zimmerman. The present officers are: Past Commander, P. J. Ashdown; Commander, A. C. Krieble; Record Keeper, W. H. Rowe; Finance Keeper, W. E. Rupright. The present membership is one hundred and eighty-nine.

Corbin Post No. 25, W. R. C., Union City, was organized November 7, 1884, with the following charter members: Emily Youngs, Josephine Buell, Hattie Harsh, Elsie Perry, Alice Rowe, Lorane Burnett, Lucy Simmons, Carrie Seymour, Belle Merrill, Margaret Shuler, Sarah White, Fidelia Wilderk, Bell Van Duser, Mary Burnett, Ida Hopkins, Sarah Cosier, Addie Wells, Adalaid Crandall, Sarah Davis, Lillie Corbin, Sofia Banford, Jane Palmer, Martha Mains, Emma Zimmerman, Jennie Palmer, Ellen Ryder. The present officers are: President, Sarah C. Kindig; Junior Vice President, Jane Dennison; Secretary, Josephine Buell; Treasurer, Kate E. Parker; Chaplain, Althea Stewart; Conductor, Sarah Eberhard; Assistant Conductor, Roda O'Rork; Guard, Jane Palmer; Assistant Guard, Ellen Gifford; Pat. Inst., Lucy Simmons; Press Cor., Ada Crandall. The present membership is twenty-eight.

Union Lodge No. 28, F. & A. M., Union City, was organized September 14, 1848, and worked under a dispensation until January 10, 1849, when a charter was granted. There are at present one hundred and forty-six members of the lodge. The present officers are: Perry J. Buell, W. M.; James W. Martin, S. W.; Fred R. Whitney, J. W.; Charles H. Lowell, Treasurer; John D. Flewelling, Secretary; Frank W. Ackerman, S. D.; Charles O. Johnson, J. D.; George W. Blackwell, Tyler; John D. Parks, Stephen E. Lee, Stewards.

Quincy Lodge No. 276, Mystic Workers of the World, was organized April 12, 1900, with the following as charter members: Egbert Palmateer, Edwin Mudge, George E. Walters, Willis Hall, George S. Thompson, Charles Harpham, Carl Stahl, Ernest H. Page, C. Henry McCarty, Myron B. Hoxie. The present officers are: Edwin Mudge, Prefect; Frank Sellers, Monitor; Edmund Lane, Secretary; Willis Hall, Banker; Rilla Mudge, Marshal; Lucy Sellers, Warder; David Gary, Sentinel; Enos Spencer, Chaplain. The lodge now has fifty-nine members.

Hewitt Lodge No. 95, D. of H., A. O. U. W., Union City, was organized March 21, 1902, with the following as charter members: Belle Stitt, Della Bradner, Edna Griffin, Alice M. Eddy, John R. Eddy, Chloe L. Watkins, E. W. Watkins, William Henderson, John D. Flewelling, Nina E. Barney, Iva Brininstool, Nettie Krieble, E. Caroline Hurd, E. H. Hurd, Emma Hatch, Henry A. Hatch. The present officers are: Past Chief of

Honor, Mrs. Chloe L. Watkins; Chief of Honor, Mrs. Edna E. Griffin; Lady of Honor, Mrs. Fredericka Bruening; Chief of Ceremonies, Mrs. Alice M. Eddy; Recorder, Mrs. Sadie Morris; Financier, Miss Hilda M. Bruening; Receiver, Mrs. Mary Kinyon; Usher, Mrs. Iva Brininstool; Inner Watch, Mrs. Mary Ward; Outer Watch, Mrs. Sophia Tyler; Medical Examiner, Mrs. Estelle Jones; Organist, Mrs. Sadie Morris. The present membership is thirty-six.

Bound to Win Hive No. 481, L. O. T. M., Union City, was organized April 25, 1894, with the following as charter members: L. Addie Buell, Sarah E. Rheubottom, Melissa J. Harris, Emma C. Robinson, Inez Kent, Alice Rex, Eliza L. Jacobs, Ellen Gifford, Rebecca Mann, Gertrude Newman, Nan E. Rheubottom, Alice Miller, Jennie Hubbard, Amelia Carpenter, Flora Wilder, Rae Turner Snyder, Adaline Corwin, Lola Corwin, Mary Rupright, Alice Rowe, Eva J. Dufur, Caroline Hurd. The hive has a present membership of ninety-eight, and the following are its officers: Past Commander, Mrs. Alice Rowe; Commander, Mrs. Kate Richards; Lieutenant Commander, Mrs. Jennie Odren; Record Keeper, Mrs. Nellie Merritt; Finance Keeper, Mrs. Dollie Rupright; Chaplain, Mrs. Nora Billings; Physician, M. Estelle Jones; Sergeant, Mrs. Flora Wilder; Mistress-at-Arms, Mrs. Lena Tinney; Sentinel, Mrs. Cora Hackett; Pickett, Mrs. Edith Bassett; Pianist, Mrs. Florence Boynton.

Union Chapter No. 193, O. E. S., Union City, was organized September 21, 1896, with twenty-nine members. The chapter at present has a membership of one hundred and sixty-seven, and those now filling official positions are: Mrs. Minerva Anderson, W. M.; Leon A. Johnson, W. P.; Mrs. Byrd Buell, A. M.; Mrs. Katherine Richards, Sec.; Mrs. Zae Martin, Treas.; Mrs. Lola Corwin, Cond.; Mrs. Hattie Day, A. Cond.; Mrs. Emma Wemple, Chap.; Mrs. Bertha Wilcox, Marl.; Mrs. Annetta Barrett, Organist; Mrs. Ada Merrifield, Adah; Mrs. Francis Hawley, Ruth; Mrs. Altha Whitney, Esther; Mrs. Mary Hayner, Martha; Mrs. Francis Morrill, Electa; Mrs. Rosena Hughes, Warder; Mr. G. W. Blackwell, Sentinel.

Select Council No. 1719, Royal Arcanum, Union City, was organized November 14, 1900, with charter members: F. A. Allen, H. W. Bradner, L. D. Blair, J. D. Barnard, Wm. Cain, A. Cuyler, C. E. Day, E. E. Dennison, Chas. Defoe, Enos Cox, G. S. Easton, W. C. Henderson, J. F. Hartford, L. L. Johnson, C. H. Lowell, J. D. Mills, A. C. McLouth, G. W. Page, W. L. Robinson, O. E. Roe, B. Rathburn, Harry Rowe, T. P. Riley, E. D. Smith, W. D. Sawdey, F. J. Sullivan, A. E. Ward, W. Wheeler, C. H. Woodruff, A. H. Fox, C. B. Spore, O. Burnstein, L. D. Wilcox, F. E. Johnson, C. C. Boyer. The present officers: Regent, J. G. Wetmore; Sec., E. J. Worden, Past Regent, W. L. Robinson; Vice Regent, M. Jones; Chaplain, L. D. Wilcox; Guide, Harry Bingham; Collector, Chas. Lake; Trustees, M. D. Krieble, Chas. Smith, D. C. Collar.

Union City Court No. 4515, Independent Order of Foresters, was organized July 28, 1904, with charter members: Harlow Van Patten, E. D. Smith, Ed. Ladd, Clifford Leilous, C. S. Worden, T. Hoyt, H. Miller, Dell

Bell, Bert Miller; Dell Jacokes, Jos. Smith, Jno. Evans, Deo Bigford, Henry Chambers, Jos. Uhlman. The present officers are: Chief Ranger, Charles Oliver; Physician, Dr. J. H. Anderson; Cor. Sec., J. H. O'Dell; Fin. Sec., Charles Oliver.

Union Camp No. 8589, Modern Woodmen of America, Union City, was organized August 27, 1900, with charter members: G. S. Easton, Geo. Merritt, W. H. Barrett, M. J. Rowley, Geo. H. Bovee, Chas. Wright, W. J. Cox, Stephen Cummings, C. M. Talbot, M. H. Hands, J. F. Hartford, A. B. Manwarren, Geo. Rayment, Wm. Short, H. J. Barton, Fred Yanger. The present officers: Venerable Counsel, W. H. Barrett; Clerk, Chas. Stone; Directors, H. G. Sweet, M. Drumm, Clark McDonald, Will Wilder.

Quincy Lodge No. 201, Knights of Pythias, was organized October 28, 1897, the charter members being: G. D. Babcock, J. C. White, C. H. Young, Clinton Joseph, G. J. Fillmore, W. C. Haight, E. D. Lockerby, C. H. Halleck, S. S. Clark, Charles Leiving, Charles Morey, G. W. Barker, Orrin Vills, F. E. Powers, C. W. Owen, Burley Shoemaker, Charles Stepper, S. D. Caldwell, E. M. Hephner, J. C. Joiner, L. L. King, H. W. Farwell, A. T. Mallory, C. C. Jones, G. F. Trott, C. F. Crouch, A. M. Griffin. The lodge membership is now one hundred and twenty, and only two deaths have occurred since organization. In 1904 Castle Hall was completed on North Main street, at a cost of four thousand dollars, a two-story building, with the upper floor devoted to lodge and club rooms. The present officers are: A. L. Massey, Chancellor Commander; Clifford Bishop, Vice Chancellor; S. W. Ford, Prelate; J. N. Salisbury, Keeper of Records and Seals; Bert Kinyon, Master of Finance; Ralph Andrus, Master of Exchequer; John Burns, Master-at-Arms; D. W. App Master of Work; John Drake, Inner Guard; Will Houghtaling, Outer Guard.

Quincy Lodge No. 186, Daughters of Rebekah, was organized January 6, 1892, with the following as charter members: Cretia Livingston, Mary Belle Dove, Mrs. H. E. Rathbone, John Livingston, Elmer Dove, Frank White, Thomas Lennon, T. Rathbone. Those now filling official positions are Clara Parkinson, N. G.; Henrietta Herendeen, V. G.; Emily Nichols, Secy.; Joseph Stevens, F. Secy.; Anna Bennett, Treas.

Rathbun Lodge No. 167, I. O. O. F., at Quincy, was organized August 15, 1871. The secretary was unable to obtain the names of the charter members. The present officers are: Charles H. Chase, N. G.; Jay Kinnebrook, V. G.; J. Stevens, Secretary.

Conrad Hive No. 428, L. O. T. M., of Quincy, was organized November 13, 1893, with the following charter members: Martha Lisk, Mary Fay, Malinda Blackman, Ida Harmon, May Fay, Carrie Wright, Caroline Sillick, Kittie Harmon, Azalia Hunt, Laura Drake, Cornelia Pope, Rachel Millens, Martha De Wolf, Henrietta Herendeen, Sarah Canel, Luella Rhodes, Hettie Clizbe, Gertie Powers, Nellie Allen, Mira Houghtaling, Rose Pease, Flora Foster, Ida Van Levvan, Laura Babcock, Mary Porter, Malinda Chase. At the present time the membership numbers over eighty, and the following is the list of the officers for the present term: Commander, Belle Qumer;

Past Commander, Lovonia Boweman; Lieutenant Commander, Nettie Thompson; Record Keeper, Kate Wiser; Finance Keeper, Mary Campbell; Chaplain, Martha De Wold; Mistress-at-Arms, Irene Ford; Sergeant, Minnie Roth; Sentinel, Nettie Baker; Picket, Ella White; Pianist, Amanda Van Orthwick; Captain, Emma Knapp.

Garland Tent No. 618, K. O. T. M., Sherwood, was organized February 26, 1891. Charter members: W. B. Chiesman, A. R. Culver, W. S. Beman, C. E. Swain, J. F. McIntyre, W. H. Fonner, C. E. Nelthorpe, F. B. Megley, C. Beard, S. Bennett, G. O. Huntley, W. M. Wrigglesworth, E. A. Lewis, A. E. Travis, H. Smith, E. B. Howard. Present officers: Henry Runyan, P. C.; F. Tillotson, C.; C. Beard, L. C.; L. L. Eddy, R. K.; W. B. Chiesman, R. K.; Henry Runyan, Chaplain; C. E. Nelthorpe, Physician; D. E. Beard, Sergeant; Wm. Carroll, M. of A.; Wm. Mullinger, First M. of G.; A. Gehring, Second M. of G.; Fred Batherick, Sentinel; Henry Kidney, Picket. Present membership, fifty-eight.

Sherwood Forest Chapter No. 223, Order of Eastern Star, Sherwood, organized September 2, 1898. Charter members: Alice R. Klose, Anna Fonner, Harriet Swain, Hester Runyan, Serro Jones, Mary Swain, Jennie Runyan, Marian Watkins, Harriet Jones, Maggie Leckner, Grace Watkins, Belle Chiesman, L. Maud Wilcox, Sarah A. Thoms, Henry Runyan, C. B. Wilcox, Walter Chiesman, Edward Watkins, Reuben Jones, Chas. E. Swain. Present officers: Sena Evert, W. M.; Chas. Nelthorpe, W. P.; Maude Wilcox, A. M.; Waive Wright, Sec.; Alice Klose, Treas.; Lou French, Conductress; Gertrude Jones, Asst. Cond.; Carrie Klose, Adah; Laura Lampman, Ruth; Margretta French, Esther; Louisa Nelthorpe, Martha; LaVase Laird, Electa; Amy Lovejoy, Chaplain; Abbie Vanderhoof, Warder; Lucious Lovejoy, Sentinel; Elizabeth Swain, Marshal; Lois Kilbourn, Organist.

Lown Hive No. 262, L. O. T. M., Sherwood, was organized December 10, 1891. The charter members are: Ellen Disbro, Sophia Lewis, Lena Fonner, Abbie Henry, Hester Runyan, Phenie Johnson, Estella Jones, Edith Turner, Lela Pearson, Rose Beman, Dora Harrison, Libbie Nelson, Lulu Wilcox, Cora Dufur, Elda Huntley, Ella Tillotson, Rebecca Bennett, Maggie Crocker, Helen Travers, Julia Spencer, Matie Beach, Ada M. Fish, Lavina Nelthorpe, Josie Culver, Addie Beard. Present officers are: Com., Cora Dufur; P. Com., Addie Beard; F. K., Josephine Thornton; R. K., Eliza Swain; Chap., Amy Lovejoy; Seargt., Elizabeth Swain; M. at A., Mary Smith; Sent., Addie DuBois; Picket, Jennie Osborn.

The C. O. Loomis Post No. 2, G. A. R., was the second Grand Army post to be established in Michigan. Moreover, it is now the oldest in continuous existence, owing to the lapse of Post No. 1, which was the first Coldwater post. Loomis Post was organized January 22, 1876, with the following charter members: Dan W. Sawyer, B. F. Clark, D. C. Myers, W. H. Thurber, Thomas Lennon, C. D. Skinner, E. A. Turner, George W. Rathbun, F. M. Rustine, J. C. Nichols, William Wilson, A. M. Turner, H. H. Hunt and Hiram Rustine. Present membership: Isaac Bargarow, Finly

D. Burlingham, Jeramire Becker, Joseph Barker, E. C. Chace, J. S. Cleveland, O. D. Curtis, Wm. M. Corey, Wm. Craps, G. W. Dye, M. M. Dichenson, Ambrose Davids, Alford Dodge, Olny Draper, K. B. Edthrige, Dexter Edthrige, Wm. H. Emons, Wm. H. Eldrid, Ely T. Hoyt, James Haines, Leroy Holkom, Lewis C. Failor, Levy Fish, John C. Illes, Andy Janon (colored gentleman), Thomas Lennon, Charles W. Lake, Edward McNitt, Silvester McNitt, John McGinnes, Henry Nichols, C. V. R. Pond, Thos. Ryan, Frank M. Rustine, George N. Runyon, L. D. Reynolds, Steven Rodgers, George Steward, William H. Thurber, Andrew Turner, A. Turpening, Harry J. Wood, David Wood, Wm. Wimer, Sanford Wood, J. Q. Mickle, G. Q. Rice, Chas. Potter, Albert Wariner, Wm. G. Whitney, John Waggoner, Tim Tallent, C. W. Owen, Sisney Smith, Alonzo Fox, Wm. Herrick, Hiram Wiser.

Butterworth Post No. 109, G. A. R., which was organized at Coldwater March 9, 1883, after the first post had lapsed, has the surviving membership named as follows: Geo. S. Allen, R. B. Amsden, J. C. Andrews, John W. Arnold, Thos. M. Alexander, Philander Alden, Daniel Bradley, Aaron Bagley, Jeff M. Burns, C. H. Brown, D. A. Bolster, Joseph Brandle, A. E. Buck, E. J. Brown, Rensalaer Brown, H. H. Benson, Darius Belknapp, Charles W. Bennett, Samuel Bates, W. A. Blye, David Bender, John Button, A. B. Cleveland, Wm. N. Conover, Geo. W. Clement, Chas. D. Cluff, Edwin Collar, Patrick Cavanaugh, James C. Clark, John M. Crocker, Peleg O. Carmen, Otis M. Clement, Edward Casebeer, L. A. Dillingham, Geo. Dingman, James Doris, Daniel E. Declute, Alden F. Drake, L. S. Daniels, John C. Dubendorf, Leonard Dean, Geo. H. Eggleston, Frank Eaton, Henry Firth, Henry E. Frederick, J. A. Fetterly, Steuben Filkins, John Fitzpatrick, David Fox, Thomas W. Fegles, Harvey Freeman, Wm. W. Fenno, Solomon Good, Wm. H. Harris, Lewis L. Hawley, P. W. Hilliar, Andrew J. Haws, Julius Herriff, David S. Harris, Henry Ide, Wm. S. Joles, Frank Jones, Jas. E. Jones, Geo. W. Knapp, Chas. Keyes, E. E. Lewis, Willet F. Lumbard, Jas. M. Lind, H. A. Lane, David R. P. Larow, Chas. A. Lee, S. M. Lutes, Geo. F. Lipps, Jas. McQueen, Frank D. Newberry, O. G. Noyes, Michael Nagle, Wm. Newman, L. M. Nye, Jacob Nodell, Geo. F. Nivison, Alfred Milnes, Samuel Misenar, Clark Mosier, I. D. Miner, Edgar P. Moses, Allen Morse, L. H. Mowers, Henry Miller, Philip Pitcher, Richmond F. Parker, David Pitcher, Andrew Pender, Byron D. Paddock, Lewis E. Pierce, A. J. Potter, John N. Parker, Daniel G. Parker, Geo. Phelps, A. J. Parsons, H. O. Purdy, Thos. S. Osborn, John O'Mara, Clark Sherman, Ezra Stahl, Henry Stahl, Wm. H. Sanford, Andrew Sitter, H. C. Simons, Hezekiah Sweet, T. G. Sheldon, Wm. Steward, Edward Stone, Wm. J. Smalley, John G. Stepper, Edgar Sears, Chas. A. Smith, N. A. Reynolds, B. K. Robbins, Thomas W. Rhodes, Benj. F. Rolfe, James A. Rickard, Harmon Timerson, Wm. M. Tyler, Samuel I. Treat, Chas. A. Tompkins, Wm. C. Taylor, Geo. H. Turner, S. M. Teachout, James B. Tuckey, C. R. Thompson, David H. Thompson, W. Vangilder, L. M. Wing, W. B. Warford, Jed Wilcox, L. C. Waldren, Thos. C. Whitelock, Chas.

Wilson, Geo. W. Whitehead, David W. Weldy, Samuel M. Williams, Milan Wheeler, Henry G. Wadsworth, Gratton H. Wagoner.

Kilbourn Post No. 361, G. A. R., Sherwood, was organized August 31, 1886. Charter members: Emory Blossom, S. L. Kilbourn, Jno. Studley, H. Runyan, J. W. Ott, J. H. Watkins, Jno. Banker, J. Henry, Ed. Nash, W. T. Davis, Edw. Tenney, Chas. Hall, S. Cathorn, Chas. Shelhart, J. M. Locke, W. C. Thornton, A. J. Snyder, C. Canfield, Robt. Kimber, Henry Jones, Nathaniel Jones, Bert Howe. The present officers: Commander, J. M. Locke; S. V. Com., Julius Henry; J. V. Com., A. J. Snyder, Surgeon, Peter Vanderhoof; Chap., Chas. Shelhart; O. D., H. Runyan; Adj., H. Runyan; Q. M., L. Zimmerman; O. G., L. P. Lovejoy; S. M., J. H. Watkins; Guard, E. W. Watkins.

Corbin Post No. 88, Grand Army of the Republic, Union City, was organized October 16, 1882. Its charter members were: A. E. Ripley, C. M. Hall, M. F. Buell, D. E. Youngs, D. L. Merrill, D. J. Easton, M. A. Merrifield, S. D. Buell, A. J. Ackley, R. M. Simmons, A. H. Wilder, E. Brumfield, B. F. Haymaker, J. C. Bushong, N. P. Olmsted, D. F. Austin, L. L. Harsh, G. W. Palmer, J. J. Banford, John Van Blarcom, J. H. Hamma, E. McDonald, C. A. Zimmerman, Geo. Haymaker. The present officers are: Commander, Ira B. Buell; S. V. Com., Henry Seymour, J. V. Com., Geo. Thayer; Officer Day, J. D. Parks; Quartermaster, M. F. Buell; Chaplain, A. J. Ackley; Officer Guard, Jonathan Olney; Adjutant, M. E. Blair; Q. M. S., R. M. Simmons.

The New Century Club of Quincy. This club was organized in 1898, and in 1900 was federated with the State Federation of Women's Clubs. The constitution limits the membership to thirty active and seven associate members. The original members of the club were as follows: Mrs. W. J. Barnes, Mrs. I. L. Bishop, Miss Jennie Burns, Mrs. C. D. Burwell, Mrs. W. D. Campbell, Mrs. E. J. Clizbe, Mrs. W. H. Lockerby, Mrs. Laura Sweeney, Miss Maria Warner—all of whom are still active members of the club. The other charter members were: Jessica Hopkins, Belle Pratt, Mary Y. Marsh, Eva Felton, P. L. Twadell, Elsie Mellen, Belle Dove, M. L. Woods, Maude Ackerson, Lenna Sweeney, Lena Anderson, Hattie Williams, Mrs. Mitterling, Sarah Dickerson, F. C. Brickley. The present active membership, besides the charter members just mentioned, are Mrs. J. M. Blackman, Mrs. Maud Barnes, Miss Barber, Miss Fox, Miss Frances W. Hill, Mrs. C. C. Jones, Miss Mabel Jones, Miss Ruby Kinyon, Mrs. T. S. Lampman, Mrs. B. C. Mellen, Mrs. F. McKinstry, Mrs. R. D. Rawson, Mrs. M. S. Segur, Mrs. J. R. Smith, Mrs. S. M. Turner, Miss Todd, Mrs. G. W. Woodworth, Miss Pierce, Mrs. F. E. Knapp, Mrs. Goldsbury, Mrs. Burr. The officers for the year 1905-06 were: Mrs. W. H. Lockerby, President; Mrs. Laura Sweeney, Vice President; Mrs. J. M. Blackman, Secretary; Mrs. R. D. Rawson, Treasurer. The ex-presidents of the club are Miss Jessica Hopkins, Mrs. M. S. Segur, Mrs. I. L. Bishop and Mrs. E. J. Clizbe. The delegate to the state federation for 1906 is Miss Mabel Jones, with Mrs. J. M. Blackman as alternate.

The Columbian Club of Quincy. This literary club was organized in 1902. Its active membership is limited to twenty-five, with five associates. The active members at this writing are: Mrs. Henry Williams, Mrs. C. C. Jones, Mrs. Henry Nichols, Mrs. G. J. Fillmore, Mrs. Floyd Newberry, Mrs. Herbert Joseph, Mrs. Yost, Mrs. George Dunphy, Mrs. A. C. Leiving, Mrs. Arza Hoffman, Miss Lea Benge, Mrs. J. D. Van Orthwick, Mrs. Frank McKinstry, Mrs. Greening, Mrs. J. C. Bennett, Mrs. W. H. Martin, Mrs. Mary Spaulding, Mrs. Will Knapp, Mrs. S. W. Boynton, Miss Mazie Field, Miss Elva Gage, Mrs. Harry Paddock, Miss Millie Barnes, Miss Buell, Mrs. Fred Finch. The associate members are Mrs. A. A. Squier, Mrs. F. E. Knapp, Mrs. A. L. Bowen, Mrs. John Babcock, Mrs. D. W. App. The officers for 1906-07 are: Mrs. Mary Spaulding, President; Miss Lea Benge, Vice President; Miss Buell, Secretary; Miss Elva Gage, Assistant Secretary.

The Nika Club, for literary and social purposes, was organized in Quincy, February 22, 1898, with the following charter members: Mrs. Joe Condra, Mrs. Gertie Powers, Mrs. Rilla Greening, Mrs. Ruby Ryan, Mrs. Jessie Hanna, deceased March 19, 1898, Mrs. Lula Ramsdell, Mrs. Lillian Runyan, Miss Julia Dayton, Mrs. Hattie Williams, Mrs. Werner, Mrs. Louise Haight, Mrs. Winnie White, Mrs. Blanch Turner, Mrs. Nora Burch, Mrs. Iva Hemorth, Mrs. Rose Wagner, Mrs. Benge, Mrs. Lena Jones. The present officers of the Nika Club are: President, Mrs. Kate Wiser; Vice President, Mrs. M. D. Greening; Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. Felger; Assistant Secy. and Treas., Mrs. Nellie Comstock. The members are: Mrs. Arza Hoffman, Mrs. J. C. White, Mrs. W. Iles, Mrs. C. H. Felger, Mrs. F. E. Powers, Mrs. C. C. Jones, Mrs. E. A. Runyan, Mrs. L. H. Ryan, Mrs. J. M. Blackman, Mrs. Geo. Burdick, Mrs. A. W. Lawton, Mrs. F. M. McKinstry, Mrs. Bert Joseph, Mrs. C. F. Crouch, Mrs. F. C. Herworth, Mrs. H. J. Williams, Mrs. R. D. Wiser, Mrs. M. D. Greening, Mrs. Geo. Comstock, Mrs. Chas. Burger, Mrs. E. E. Lytle, Mrs. H. C. Ramsdell, Mrs. L. O. Burch, Mrs. B. F. Kinyon, Mrs. C. D. Burwell, Mrs. Ward Allen, Mrs. E. E. Widner, Mrs. R. D. Rawson, Mrs. Max Glazer, Mrs. W. C. Haight.

In 1891-94 there was a Chautauqua circle in Bronson. Mr. Waldo M. Morrison was president of the circle, and Mrs. Lou R. Whitaker secretary. There were eight members: Mrs. Della Teller, Mrs. Nellie Rudd, Mrs. Gussie Davis, Miss Sadie Sanderson, Miss Mae Moos, Miss Grace Rose, Miss Louise Stevens, Mrs. Waldo M. Morrison, Mrs. Lou Draper, Miss Nellie Fulkerson.

The Woman's Club of Bronson was organized in 1903, and in the following year was federated with the state association. The officers for 1905-06 were: Ex-President, Ellen C. Card; President, Melissa Rudd Fisk; Vice President, Cora B. Scribner; Secretary and Treasurer, Lou Bennett Whitaker; Corresponding Secretary, Augusta Van Fleet Davis. The members: Maria Taggart Bushnell, Ellen C. Card, Melissa Rudd Fisk, Nellie Brown Powers, Adaline Phillips Selby, Lucinda Bowen, Augusta Van Feet Davis, Essie R. Hurford, Clara Norton Perrin, Cora B. Scribner, Lou Ben-

nett Whitaker, Gertrude Baxter, Alice Park Mowry, Flora Burr Shaffmaster. Honorary member, Grace Van Alstine Taylor.

The Tuesday Club of Union City, a literary and social organization among the ladies of the village, was organized in 1898, with the following charter members: Mrs. Chas. H. Lowell, Mrs. Arthur Fenno, Mrs. Leon A. Johnson, Miss Nannette H. Jeffrey, Mrs. E. H. Page, Mrs. Edgar Doty, Mrs. H. T. Carpenter, Mrs. N. E. Tower, Mrs. Wm. E. Bell, Mrs. G. K. Whiting, Miss N. Sophia Page, Mrs. Arthur S. Cornell, Mrs. Frank C. Boise, Dr. Cora B. Cornell, Mrs. Mildred S. Stanton, Miss Ellen Crissy, Miss Edna J. Peck, Mrs. E. H. Hurd, Mrs. J. E. Saxton, Dr. A. Dorothy Payne. The present officers: President, Mrs. F. C. Boise; Vice President, Miss Harriet Young; Secretary, Miss Carrie Hurd; Treasurer, Mrs. Claude Graham.

Coldwater Y. M. C. A.

The Young Men's Christian Association of Coldwater has had a continuous and increasingly prosperous existence of more than twenty years. The articles of association are dated June 9, 1885, and were signed by C. J. Vanderhoof, C. H. Macumber, F. I. Sprague, W. C. Bailey, G. W. Collins, T. A. Hilton, C. S. Vincent, H. P. Woodward, W. S. Mansell, R. E. Clarke. The first officers were L. D. Fiske, president; C. J. Vanderhoof, Vice President; C. F. Ruggles, Secretary; R. E. Clarke, Treasurer; W. E. Flynn, General Secretary.

Mr. R. E. Clarke and Mr. H. P. Woodward, whose names appear among the organizers, continued as active members of the board of directors from the date of organization until the summer of 1906, a period of twenty-one years.

The first quarters of the association were in the Old Bank building, Monroe and Chicago streets. In April, 1892, the second floor of the White block was rented. The Lewis Art collection having been moved from Coldwater to Ann Arbor, the vacant gallery building was donated by Mrs. Alma Lewis Dennis, widow of the late H. C. Lewis, for the use of the association. Several thousand dollars were expended in converting the building to its new purposes, and in December, 1896, the association moved to its permanent quarters at the corner of Hudson and Chicago streets, where the building, grounds and general equipment give the association a home that compares favorably with that of any Y. M. C. A. in southern Michigan.

The present membership is about two hundred, and the officers last elected are: Frank I. Post, President; F. B. Reynolds, Vice President; L. A. Hutchins, Recording Secretary; C. M. Perry, Treasurer; S. Raymond Gould, General Secretary.

CHAPTER XXIX.

THE PIONEER SOCIETY.

"The object of this society shall be the collecting and preserving of historical, biographical or other information in relation to Branch County." This is the purpose, as stated in Article 3 of the Constitution, of the Pioneer Society of Branch County, which was founded August 16, 1878. Founded with this high purpose, and with the possibilities of a broad and beneficent activity resulting from long associations and the common experiences of pioneer life, it is to be regretted that this society has not had a continuous and prosperous career. The last meeting of the society was held in 1901. That there is a living interest in all matters comprehended in the language of the above article, and that this interest is general throughout the county, not alone among the oldest citizens but also among the present generation, the existence of this history is ample proof. For without that "reverence for the past and a desire to maintain every sort of connection with it," which an English observer has declared to be a great and growing force among the educated people of America, the publication of a historical work of these dimensions could not have been undertaken. But as yet this general interest has not been focused and converted into a permanent and effective force wielded by a single organization.

With these observations on the present condition of the pioneer movement, the history of the Pioneer Society may be sketched in some detail. The meeting for organization on the date above mentioned was held in the house of Harvey Warner, with another well known pioneer, E. G. Fuller, as chairman, and T. C. Etheridge as secretary. The first set of officers elected for the ensuing year were as follows:

Harvey Warner, president; Harvey Haynes, recording secretary; T. C. Etheridge, corresponding secretary; S. M. Treat, treasurer; Henry Lockwood, Albert Chandler and Mrs. H. Warner, executive committee.

Vice Presidents—Algansee, F. D. Ransom; Batavia, Martin P. Olds; Bethel, Nelson Card; Bronson, Wales Adams; Butler, Milo White; California, James H. Lawrence; Coldwater township, Origen F. Bingham; Coldwater City, J. D. W. Fisk, I. P. Alger, Allen Tibbits, John H. Bennett; Gilead, Samuel Booth; Girard, James B. Tompkins; Kinderhook, George Tripp; Matteson, William McCarty; Noble, Walter W. Smith; Ovid, Stewart Davis; Quincy, W. P. Arnold; Sherwood, Isaac D. Beall; Union, Hiram Doubleday.

Besides these already mentioned there were Roland Root and wife, L.



Entrance to New Cemetery, Coldwater

D. Halsted and wife, C. H. Williams and wife, and James R. Wilcox and wife, whose names appear as constitutional members.

It is worthy of note, as showing how the advance guard of life's procession is being constantly cut down by time, that only two or three of these original members are now living. Perhaps the last one to be gathered in the fullness of time was L. D. Halsted, who passed away April 5, 1906.

For the first twelve years after its formation the society was flourishing, and its mid-winter meetings were well attended. In 1884 a new constitution and by-laws were adopted. The definition of what constitutes a pioneer underwent several changes during the history of the society. At one time anyone who had resided in Michigan and Branch county for thirty years was eligible to membership, while with this constitution the requirement was reduced to twenty-five years residence in the state and residence in the county at time of being received into the society.

Between January 13, 1892, and the month of December, 1896, no meeting is recorded. At the same time the death roll was increasing, and thenceforward hardly a month passed without the death of one who had come to the county as a pioneer. Another lapse in regular meetings occurred between March 17, 1897, and February 19, 1901, and in May of the same year the assembling of the pioneers at the home of Judge David N. Green, then president of the society, was the last meeting of the Pioneer Society of Branch county.

The officers elected at the meeting of February 19, 1901, and, because their successors have not been elected, still the *de facto* officers of the society, were: President, David N. Green (since deceased); vice-president, George W. Van Aken; secretary, Calvin J. Thorpe; executive committee, Albert A. Dorrance, Anthony R. Brown and D. W. Benton.

Pioneer Record.

[These brief biographical records of pioneers have been compiled from various available sources and will serve to supplement the preceding historical chapters and the biographical sketches that follow.]

Allen, John B.—Born in England, March 13, 1834; came to Bethel, Branch county, in 1842.

Allen, Gabriel—Born June 28, 1839, died Feb. 26, 1904. Brother of foregoing. Came with parents to Bethel township.

Allen, George Henry—Born in Bethel township, April 7, 1844; living in Coldwater.

Aldrich, William—Born Wayne county, N. Y., July 26, 1811, and died in Coldwater Nov. 26, 1877. Came to Girard township in 1832.

Aldrich, Abram J.—Born in Girard township, Feb. 3, 1843; living in Coldwater. At one time proprietor of Coldwater Republican.

Alger, Isaac P.—Born in Lisbon, N. Y., Aug. 28, 1820, and died at Coldwater April 18, 1904. Came to Quincy township in 1833.

Alger, William—Born in Richland township, Vermont, July, 1816, died in 1893 in Matteson township. Early settler in Butler township. Brother of Dr. Isaac P. Alger.

Arnold, William P.—Born Clarendon, Vermont, August 23, 1806, and died ..... Came to Branch county in 1833.

Allen, John—Born in Sudbury, Rutland county, Vt., April 29, 1801; died in Coldwater township, Sept. 29, 1891. Came to Coldwater township in 1843.

Alden, Isaac—Born in Oswego county, N. Y., January 8, 1813; died in Coldwater, Feb. 7, 1892. Came to Coldwater township in 1850.

Alden, Mrs. Mary A. (wife of Isaac Alden)—Born in Groton, N. Y., Nov. 11, 1819; died ..... Daughter of David and Abigail Hopkins; married Mr. Alden March 18, 1845, in Jonesville, Mich.

Adams, Wales—Born Medway, Mass., March 2, 1804; died .... Came to Branch county, in September, 1830.

Allen, Alonzo B.—Born in Pittsford, Vt., July 11, 1829; living in Coldwater township. Came to Branch county in 1843.

Arnold, Samuel—Born in Middletown, Conn., Feb. 20, 1800; died in Gilead township September 30, 1878; came to Kinderhook township in 1836, and to Gilead in 1837.

Arnold, Mrs. Catherine S.—Born March 20, 1805; married Samuel Arnold in 1831.

Ackerman, John D.—Born Cortland county, N. Y., June, 1825; died at Union City, ...

Anderson, John—Born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland; died Feb. 12, 1852, in Gilead township. Came to Gilead township in 1837.

Anderson, James—Born March 18, 1817, in Aberdeenshire, Scotland; died ..... Came to Noble township in 1842, to Coldwater in 1848.

Austin, Charles H.—Born Perrysburg, Ohio, May 10, 1838; living in Batavia. Came to Batavia in 1847.

Arnold, John W.—Born in Gilead township December 13, 1840; living in Chicago.

Ashton, James—Born in Yorkshire, England, September 2, 1821. Came to Quincy township in 1842.

Ayres, Ezra J.—Born Oct. 17, 1839, in Jay township, Essex county, N. Y., came to California township in 1871. Physician.

Abbott, William H.—Born at Dearborn, Mich., July 8, 1826; died at Coldwater, Nov. 16, 1894. Came to Coldwater in 1838.

Bronson, Jabe—Born in Connecticut, and died in Batavia township. First settler in Branch county, in 1828.

Babcock, Christopher G.—Born in Portage county, Ohio, in 1837; living in Bronson. Came to Gilead township in 1861.

Beech, John H.—Born in Orleans county, N. Y., Sept. 24, 1819; died October 17, 1878. Came to Coldwater in 1850; a physician.

Babcock, George P.—Born in Camden, Oneida county, N. Y., January 18, 1815; died in 1874 in Quincy. Came to Quincy township in 1835.

Blackman, Dr. Edson—Born in Morenci, Michigan, Nov. 22, 1839; living in Quincy, where he located in 1876.

Bailey, Henry C.—Born in Barre, Orleans county, N. Y., January 22, 1832; living in Coldwater. Came to Branch county in 1852.

Brown, Alvarado—Born in Herkimer county, N. Y., January 15, 1809. Came to Branch county in 1840.

Baldrige, Niles—Born in Meadville, Erie county, Penn., Nov. 6, 1839; died July 25, 1879, in Ovid township. Came to Ovid township in 1847.

Booth, Samuel—Born in Onondaga county, N. Y., Feb. 22, 1818; died in Coldwater, Feb. 13, 1892. Came to Gilead township in 1832.

Bartholomew, Jehial—Born in Dryden, N. Y.; died in 1875 in Algansee township. Came to Algansee township in 1844.

Bingham, Origen S.—Born January 25, 1824, at Shelburne Falls, Mass.; died in 1892. Came to Branch county in Oct., 1831.

Bingham, Mrs. Phebe (Worden)—Born June 4, 1829, at Delhi, N. Y. Came to Batavia in November, 1835.

Bassett, John—Born March 20, 1793, Martha's Vineyard, Mass.; died April 27, 1874, in Batavia township. Came to Batavia in 1835.

Bassett, Adam—Son of John. Born in Andes, Delaware Co., N. Y., March 1, 1823; died March 30, 1887, in Batavia township. Came to Batavia with his father.

Blodget, Uri—Born in Ontario county, N. Y., March 2, 1821; died at Coldwater in 1906. Came to Coldwater in 1849.

Beal, I. D.—Born in Rutland county, Vt., May 21, 1812; deceased. Came to Sherwood township in 1837.

Buell, Thomas B.—Born in New York state in 1815. Came to Union City in 1836.

Bates, Alfred S.—Born in township of Starkey, Yates county, N. Y., August 30, 1819; died in Kinderhook, Dec. 26, 1893. Came to Kinderhook in 1848.

Burton, Parley G.—Born July 26, 1815, in Monroe county, N. Y. Came to Girard in 1847.

Bidelman, Horatio N.—Born in Orleans county, N. Y., July 4, 1836; living in Coldwater. Came to Quincy in 1855.

Bagley, Aaron—Born in Orange county, Vermont, December 29, 1791. Settled at village of Branch in May, 1836.

Bagley, Mrs. Elizabeth—Born in Lancaster county, Penn., March 22, 1814. Came to Batavia township in June, 1834.

Bennett, Hon. John H., M. D.—Born at Chenango, Broome county, N. Y., December 6, 1826; died in Batavia, July 31, 1891. Came to Quincy township in 1839. Came to Coldwater May 10, 1864.

Burdick, James M.—Born in Livingston county, N. Y. Came to Branch county and settled in Quincy township in 1836.

Barnhart, Martin—Born in Wayne county, N. Y. Came to Girard township in January, 1831.

Bennett, Nathaniel—Born near Adrain, Mich., in 1832; died in 1886. Came to Bethel township in 1847.

Brinton, Albert N.—Born Salisbury, Conn., Nov. 11, 1827; living in Coldwater. Came to Quincy in May, 1860.

Baggerly, Reuben A.—Born in Ontario county, N. Y., June 17, 1819. Came to Quincy, April 20, 1854.

Bickford, Daniel—Came to Algansee township in 1837.

Bickford, Jonathan K.—Born in Canada; died in Algansee township, May, 1882. Came to Algansee about 1836.

Bickford, Stephen T.—Born at Bellevue, Ohio, Dec. 16, 1823; died in Algansee May 31, 1906. Came to Algansee in 1834.

Bickford, Ira P.—Born in Algansee township March 12, 1844.

Brown, Anthony R.—Born in New York state in 1827. Came to Branch county in 1838.

Benton, Edward W.—Born in New York state in 1824. Came to Branch county in 1846.

Belote, John S.—Born in Albany, N. Y., Nov. 24, 1813; died in Quincy August 6, 1888. Came to Quincy township in 1835.

Bostwick, Ezra—Born in Onondaga county, N. Y., Feb. 27, 1826. Came to Union township in 1835.

Brainard, S. E.—Born in Madison county, N. Y. Came to Algansee township in 1836.

Berry, Enos G.—Born in New Hampshire, Sept. 5, 1814; died in January, 1877. Came to Quincy in 1835. (See index.)

Brown, Asahel—Born in Stafford, Monmouth county, N. J., April 9, 1803; died in Algansee township, June 8, 1874. Came to Algansee in 1836.

Burbank, Dwight L.—Born in Suffield, Conn., March 8, 1829. Came to Butler township in 1850.

Bushnell, Samuel S.—Born July 21, 1799, in Vermont; died July 21, 1872. Came to Noble township in 1836.

Bushnell, Ephraim B.—Born in Monroe county, N. Y., October 12, 1825. Came to Noble township with father in 1838.

Bowers, Charles E.—Born March 28, 1826; settled in Butler township in 1847.

Bennett, James K.—Born in Vermont in 1809. Came to Matteson township September 19, 1838.

Bennett, Christopher Columbus—Born in Hopewell, Ontario county, N. Y., Sept. 3, 1830; living in Matteson township. Came with parents to Matteson in 1838.

Ball, Thaddeus—Born in Oneida county, N. Y., Oct. 29, 1813; died in Quincy township Oct. 14, 1897. Came to Quincy in 1840.

Bennett, Hiram H.—Born in Chemung county, N. Y., Aug. 10, 1815; died in Butler township in 1897. Came to Butler in 1845.

Bingham, Seymour L.—Born in 1810; died in California state, June 25, 1894. Came to Coldwater in 1831.

Ballou, John and Jemima, his wife—Came into Matteson township about 1840; neither now living.

Bowers, John—Ninety years of age in 1906; lives in Batavia township with his son.

Bachelder, Nathaniel—Came into Branch county in 1846.

Bachelder, Mrs. Julia Etta (Ferguson)—Born in Chatham, N. Y., Oct. 26, 1819; died in Orange, Cal., July 5, 1906. Came with her husband to Branch county in 1846.

Barnhart, Mahlon Budd—Came into Union township in 1834.

Crippen, Philo H.—Born in Penfield, Monroe county, N. Y., March 15, 1809. Came to Coldwater in 1835.

Culp, Nicholas—Born near Gettysburg, Penn.; died in September, 1873, in Coldwater. Came to Coldwater township in 1844.

Culp, John W.—Born in Newfane, Niagara county, N. Y., May 8, 1832; living in Coldwater. Came to Branch county in 1839.

Culver, Eli—Born in Hector, Tompkins county, N. Y., Feb. 4, 1816. Came to Algansee township in 1839.

Crater, Andrew—Born in Hunterdon county, N. J., June 28, 1813. Came to Algansee township in spring of 1837.

Card, Silas N.—Born in Binghampton county, Vt., June 25, 1812; died June 19, 1897. Came to Branch county in 1836.

Clizbe, James—Born in Steuben county, N. Y., Feb. 8, 1813; died in Quincy March 24, 1895. Came to Quincy township in 1835. Planted many of the shade trees on streets of Quincy village.

Coddington, Chester S., Reuben and Luther—All came from Ithaca, N. Y., to Sherwood township.

Cornwell, Charles Titus—Came to Coldwater in 1849.

Crawford, Moses—Born in Governeur, St. Lawrence county, N. Y., Oct. 25, 1828; still living; came to Bronson April 20, 1848.

Clark, Jabez—Came to Bronson in Dec., 1836.

Clark, Leonard D.—Son of Jabez Clark, born in Norwalk, O.; came with parents to Bronson in 1836; died in May, 1905.

Clark, Milo—Second son of Jabez; born Nov. 14, 1821; died Jan. 6, 1885; came with parents to Bronson in 1836.

Crawford, Amira Jane (Clark)—Born in Norwalk, O., June 15, 1835; came with parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jabez Clark, to Bronson in Dec., 1836; died April 1, 1904.

Canfield, Numan—Born in New York April 11, 1800. Came to Bethel township in 1844.

Canfield, Chester Numan—Born in New York; living in Bethel. Came to Bethel with father in 1844.

Chandler, Robert G.—Born in Detroit, Dec. 21, 1838; living in Coldwater. Came to Coldwater in 1845.

Cheney, Alfred—Born in Nasby, Northamptonshire, England, July 5, 1839; living in Kinderhook. Came to Branch county in 1851.

Clark, Israel W.—Born in Connecticut Farms, New Jersey, Sept. 29, 1803. Came to Union City in 1838.

Clark, Timothy—Born in Broadalbin, N. Y., March 30, 1819. Came to Coldwater in 1848, and an early settler of Kinderhook.

Clarke, Edwin R.—Born in Byron, N. Y., March 22, 1828. Came to Coldwater in 1850. Donor of Clarke Library building in Coldwater.

Coffman, Christopher—Born in Lancaster county, Penn., October, 1805; deceased. Came to Branch county in 1852.

Coffman, Lancaster—Born March 17, 1831, in Mahoning county, Ohio. Came to Ovid township in 1853.

Compton, William H.—Born in Gasport, Niagara county, N. Y., in 1841; died in 1904. Came to Bronson with parents in 1845.

Cornell, Daniel S.—Born in Niagara county, N. Y., May 20, 1815; died in Girard Oct. 15, 1889. Came to Girard in 1836.

Cornell, Job K.—Born in New York; died Aug. 3, 1876, in Union township. Came to Union township in spring of 1835.

Cornell, Chauncey J.—Born in Milan, Ohio, August 21, 1833; living in Coldwater. Came with parents to Union township in 1835.

Corson, John—Born in Oneida county, N. Y.; died in 1855 in Matteson township. Came to Matteson in 1836.

Corson, Lafferd W.—Born in Hopewell township, Ontario county, N. Y., April 23, 1822. Came with parents to Matteson in 1836.

Cory, Israel—Born in Morris county, N. J., May 6, 1814; living in Coldwater. Came to Branch county in 1865.

Crippen, Bradley—Born in Herkimer county, N. Y., Sept. 25, 1783; died in 1855 in Coldwater. Came to Coldwater township in 1835.

Chandler, Albert—Born in Sempronius, N. Y., Sept. 23, 1814; died in 1905 in Coldwater. Came to Coldwater in 1841.

Crippen, L. D.—Born in Fairfield, N. Y., Aug. 29, 1806; died April 20, 1864. Came to Coldwater in June, 1835.

Crippen, Mrs. Ruth (Haynes)—Born in Ulster county, N. Y., July 31, 1809; died in Coldwater, May 15, 1890. Came to Coldwater in June, 1835.

Culver, A. C.—Born in Wayne county, N. Y., Aug. 29, 1823. Came to Quincy in Nov., 1847.

Clizbe, Dr. Stephen H.—Born in Girard township, January 24, 1845; living in Coldwater. (See index.)

Chauncey, Dr. Moses E.—Born in Saratoga county, N. Y., Nov. 15, 1809; died May 7, 1884. Came to Girard village in 1843.

Croy, John—Came to Gilead early in spring of 1831; moved in 1838 to Steuben county, Ind.; died in Iowa in 1875. First settler of Gilead township.

Craig, Samuel—Born in County Armagh, Ireland, February 22, 1795; died March 2, 1847. Came to Girard March 28, 1831.

Craig, Eliza—Born in Ireland May 25, 1795; died in Girard on Dec. 22, 1878.

Craig, Samuel—Born Sept. 4, 1831; died January 2, 1856. First white child born in Girard township.

Chase, William—Born in Otsego county, N. Y., Nov. 12, 1815. Came to Kinderhook in 1841.

Case, Almeron W.—Born in Livingston county, N. Y., Feb. 6, 1808; died in Kinderhook township in November, 1877. Came to Kinderhook in 1837.

Chase, Chauncey—Born in Monroe county, N. Y., September 19, 1828. Came to Noble township in 1846.

Calkins, Moses V.—Born in Danby, Vt., May 31, 1814. Came to Butler township in 1852; moved to Coldwater in 1874.

Calkin, Barzillia H.—Born in Newburg, Ohio, March 20, 1840; died in Coldwater, in 1906. Came with father to Butler township in 1848.

Cline, Ephraim—Born in Binghamton, N. Y., Nov. 12, 1812; died in Matteson township in 1874. Came to Matteson township about 1835.

Denison, Samuel M.—Born in Livonia, N. Y., March 20, 1814; died in Coldwater Nov. 20, 1894. Came to Coldwater in 1838.

Doubleday, Hiram—Born in Washington county, N. Y., Feb. 20, 1802; deceased. Came to Sherwood township in 1836.

Dougherty, Thomas—Born in Washington county, N. Y., February, 1800; deceased January 15, 1888. Came to Coldwater Sept. 10, 1835.

Davis, David H.—Born in Chautauqua county, N. Y., July 27, 1817; died March 26, 1902. Came to Coldwater in 1856 to take charge of public schools.

Davis, Ichabod—Came to Ovid township in 1836; died there in September, 1849.

Davis, Stuart—Born Feb. 14, 1808, in Steuben, Oneida county, N. Y.; deceased September 4, 1881. Came to Ovid township in 1836.

Davis, Emery—Born in Dover, Dutchess county, N. Y., June 6, 1817. Came to Ovid township in 1854.

Dunks, Daniel S.—Born January 21, 1810, in East Bloomfield, Ontario county, N. Y.; died in Sherwood township, April 21, 1877. Came to Union township in 1838.

Dickerson, Mrs. Emma F.—Born in Ruggles, Ashland county, Ohio, Sept. 16, 1847; died May 22, 1906. Came with parents to Quincy township in 1851.

Doerr, Jacob—Born in Germany, May 17, 1824; died June 6, 1906. Came to Gilead township in 1849.

Davis, Oris—Born in Oneida county, N. Y., Nov. 27, 1812; died in Coldwater township April 10, 1894. Came to Branch county in 1836.

Dennis, Mrs. David B. (Alden)—Born in New York, June 5, 1826; died in Coldwater May 8, 1895. Came to Coldwater with father, Hiram Alden, in September, 1834.

Dunks, Mrs. Elmira—Nearly ninety years old, 1906; has lived on a farm near Union City seventy years.

Davis, Ezekiel—Born in Holland, N. Y., July 12, 1827. Came to Bronson in 1843 and bought a farm in Noble township; returned to New York in 1845; came back to Bronson in 1865, where he is still living.

Ewers, Dr. H. F.—Born in Onondaga county, N. Y., Feb. 24, 1830; deceased. Came to Union City in 1854.

Ent, Silas—Born in Essex county, N. J., Nov. 20, 1820. Came to Kinderhook in 1842.

Easton, David J.—Born in Castile, Wyoming county, N. Y., June 5, 1842. Came with parents to Algansee township in 1846.

Edwards, Thomas—Born in Schoharie county, N. Y., January 22, 1813. Came to Butler township in 1840.

Ellis, Willard T.—Born in Geneseo, Livingston county, N. Y., August 16, 1830. Came to California township in 1844.

Ensley, Jacob—Born in Lenawee county, Mich., May 22, 1835. Came to Batavia township in 1835.

Fisk, Abram C.—Born in Monroe county, N. Y., Feb. 19, 1815; deceased at Coldwater Sept. 27, 1897. Came to Coldwater Sept. 7, 1835.

Fetterby, Nathan—Born June, 1827, in Herkimer county, N. Y. Came to Coldwater in 1843.

Faust, Daniel—Born in Columbia county, Penn., June 27, 1819. Came to Noble township in 1836.

Fisk, James—Born in New Hampshire in 1787; died in Coldwater township August 12, 1870. Came to Coldwater township in 1835.

Fisk, Joseph D. W.—Born in Penfield, Monroe county, N. Y., Sept. 24, 1829; deceased at Coldwater Nov. 30, 1893. Came to Branch county with parents in 1835.

Ford, Daniel R.—Born in Rutland county, Vermont, Dec. 16, 1814. Came to Butler township in 1836.

Fonda, Charles Ira—Born in Rushville township, Yates county, N. Y., Feb. 12, 1831; living in Coldwater. Came to Batavia township with parents, June 13, 1837.

Ferguson, Benjamin Roberts—Born July 12, 1818, at Ryders Mills, Chatham, Columbia Co., N. Y. Came to Ovid township in 1846; still living in Coldwater.

Ferguson, Juliaett (Bachelder)—Sister of foregoing; born Oct. 26, 1819, at same place as her brother; came with her husband, Nathaniel Bachelder, to Ovid township in 1846; died in Orange, California, July 5, 1906.

Ferguson, Dr. George—Brother of preceding, born at same place, Feb. 1, 1827; came to Ovid township in 1854.

Ferguson, Stephen—Brother of preceding, born at same place, July 22, 1832; came to Ovid township in 1854 where he is still living.

Fonda, David—Came from Rushville, Yates Co., N. Y., with his family to Batavia township, June 13, 1837.

Fisk, James Edwin—Came into Matteson township about 1835.

Gilbert, William S.—Born in Warren, Vt., Nov. 23, 1809; deceased in Coldwater Sept. 1, 1890. Came to Coldwater Sept. 11, 1836.

Gallup, F. T.—Born in Canada, March 11, 1823; came to Algansee township in 1853.

Green, David—Born in Queenstown, N. Y., Jan. 5, 1802; died in June, 1884. Came to Gilead township in 1841.

Green, E. C. S.—Born in Tyre, Seneca county, N. Y., Sept. 16, 1825; died in Gilead Aug. 10, 1897. Came to Gilead township with parents in 1841.

Green, David Nathaniel—Born in Tyre township, Seneca county, N. Y., Sept. 9, 1823; died Sept. 15, 1902; came with his father to Gilead in 1841.

Gardner, Hiram—Born in Burlington, Otsego county, N. Y., Dec. 12, 1805. Came to Matteson township in 1836.

Gardner, Amos—Born in Otsego county, N. Y., March 18, 1833; living in Matteson township. Came to Matteson in 1836.

Gardner, Elisha T.—Born in Washington county, N. Y., Nov. 7, 1814; died June 7, 1878. Came to Noble township in 1854.

Gwin, Jabin R.—Born in Richland county, Ohio, Jan. 17, 1816. Came to Sherwood township in 1851.

George, Henry—Born in township of Remsen, Oneida county, N. Y., Oct. 26, 1809; died April 14, 1860, in Ovid township. Came to Ovid in 1838.

George, Henry B.—Born in Lenawee county, Mich., Oct. 9, 1838; living in Coldwater. Came to Ovid with parents in 1838.

Gibbs, Luman—Born in Scotland in 1791; died in 1848. Came to Kinderhook township in 1842.

Gibbs, Luman B.—Born in Pulaski, Jackson county, Mich., April 9, 1840. Came to Kinderhook in 1842.

Gordinier, William H.—Born in New York state in 1810; died in Algansee township February 13, 1892. Came to California township in 1837.

Gray, Darwin L.—Born in Franklin county, Mass.; died in Algansee May 1, 1897. Came to Branch county in 1836.

Giltner, John F.—Born in Lehigh county, Penn., Aug. 13, 1834. Came to Sherwood township in 1836.

Gilbert, John T.—Born in Mansfield, Conn., March 19, 1806; died at Coldwater, March 20, 1891. Came to Coldwater in 1860.

Golden, William—Born in township of Wilton, Saratoga county, N. Y., in 1804; died June, 1883, in Quincy township. Came to Quincy in 1849.

Golden, Samuel M.—Born in Huron county, Ohio, Jan. 18, 1841. Came to Quincy with father in 1849.

Gorbal, James—Born in Suffolk, England, Jan. 3, 1815. Came to Girard township in 1836.

Goodwin, Seth—Born in New York state, in 1796; died in Matteson township Oct. 12, 1859. Came to Matteson about 1836.

Goodwin, Charles H.—Born in Matteson township April 11, 1854.

Graham, L. L.—Born in St. Joseph, Mich., in 1838. Came to Gilead township in 1843.

Green, Alexander R.—Born in Ellicott, N. Y., in 1835; living in Gilead township. Came to Gilead with parents in 1841.

Green, James H.—Born in Mercer county, Penn., Feb. 14, 1813; died Feb. 6, 1884, in Bronson township. Came to Bronson in 1843.

Greenwood, Richard—Born near Rochdale at Plumpton, Lancashire, England, Dec. 18, 1809; died in Coldwater, April 1, 1877. Came to Coldwater about 1842.

Grove, Archibald R.—Born in Batavia township, March 17, 1839.

Goodman, Cleophas T.—Born in New York state Aug. 21, 1815; died in Algansee, Jan. 29, 1895. Came to Branch county in 1837.

Gordinier, Jacob—Came from Herkimer county, N. Y., in November, 1841, to Gilead township. He is still living in Bronson.

Green, Silas Seeley—Born Jan. 21, 1804; came into Bethel township in 1835.

Haynes, Harvey—Born in Ulster county, N. Y., Jan. 24, 1817. Came in 1836 to Coldwater township with father, James Haynes.

Holmes, Jonathan—Born in Peterborough, N. H., June 8, 1807. Came to Bronson township in 1836.

Hawks, Joseph S.—Born in Otsego county, N. Y., April 19, 1814; died in Kinderhook, Oct. 5, 1874. Came to Kinderhook about 1837.

Hadley, Hiram H.—Born in Addison, Vt., June 14, 1810. Came to Batavia township Nov. 20, 1837.

Harmon, William P.—Born in Ontario county, N. Y., Sept. 1, 1824; died Feb. 4, 1892, in Quincy township. Came to Quincy in 1855.

Hall, Thomas—Born in Washington county, N. Y., Jan. 12, 1814. Came to California township in 1844.

Haviland, John B.—Born in Danville, Vt., Oct. 28, 1816. Came to Sherwood township in 1836.

Hiesrodt, Edwin—Born in Orleans county, N. Y., Oct. 30, 1821. Came to Ovid township in 1844.

Holmes, Cicero J.—Born in Bronson township, Nov. 13, 1844.

Hubbard, Horatio N.—Born in Chenango county, N. Y.; died in Batavia township, June 1, 1882. Came to Batavia in July, 1838.

Huyck, Henry F.—Born in Saratoga county, N. Y., March 18, 1818. Came to Kinderhook township in 1844.

Henry, Warren—Born July 6, 1819; came into Sherwood township in 1851, where he is still living.

Halsted, Lorenzo Dow—Born in Tompkins county, N. Y., July 20, 1820; died in Coldwater, April 5, 1906. Came to Coldwater Sept. 10, 1836.

Jones, John H.—Born in Hopewell, N. Y., April 27, 1828; died in Quincy, March 19, 1895. Came to Quincy township about 1835.

Joseph, Lawrence—Born in Tompkins county, N. Y., April 27, 1825; came to Quincy township in 1851.

Joseph, Lucas—Born in Northampton county, Penn., Oct. 14, 1817. Came to Quincy township in March, 1839.

Joseph, William—Born in Tompkins county, N. Y., June 26, 1828; died at Quincy, April 30, 1880. Came to Quincy about 1850.

Jacobs, Lysander—Born in Chautauqua township, Chautauqua county, N. Y., Jan. 28, 1825; married Miss Amelia Hull in 1853, and came to Union township in that year; died June 27, 1906.

Jones, Loring Grant—Born in Lester, Livingston county, N. Y., Sept. 7, 1828; came to Bronson in 1836; still living there.

Jones, Joseph Thompson—Born Sept. 7, 1822, in Monroe county, N. Y.; married Miss Sally Briggs April 2, 1845; came to Quincy township, where he is still living, May 2, 1846.

Keagle, Thomas H.—Born near Plymouth, England, Feb. 3, 1836. Came with parents to Quincy township in 1843.

Kellsy, Ira—Born in Wyoming county, N. Y., Nov. 7, 1823. Came to Ovid township in 1848.

Kerns, Levi—Born in Mahoning county, O., Feb. 17, 1824; died in Ovid township Feb. 15, 1888. Came to Branch county in 1852.

Kelly, James—Came from Marion Co., O., in 1833 into Gilead township where he lived three years; died in Steuben Co., Ind., about 1870.

Kennedy, Charles Decatur—Born in Cumberland Co., Penn., Feb. 19, 1834; still living in Butler township. Came into Butler with his father, George Kennedy, in 1849.

Kerns, Levi—Born Mahoning Co., O., Feb. 17, 1824; died Feb. 15, 1888, in Ovid township; came to Branch county in 1852.

Kellsy, Ira—Born in Wyoming Co., N. Y., Nov. 7, 1823. Came to Branch county in 1848.

Knowlton, Ephraim A.—Born in Essex county, Mass., Dec. 25, 1813; died in Coldwater March 14, 1893. Came to Coldwater in 1856 and established planing mill and sash factory.

Keeslar, Joseph—Born in Madison county, N. Y., April 6, 1825. Came to Gilead township in 1838, with father, Peter Keeslar.

Lampman, Henry S.—Born in Greene county, N. Y., Feb. 22, 1810. Came to Butler township as pioneer in 1836.

Lockwood, Henry—Born in Ulster county, N. Y., Nov. 1, 1812, died May 29, 1891, in Ovid township, where he was the oldest pioneer.

Lawrence, James H.—Born in Livingston county, N. Y., in 1815; died April 10, 1897. Came to California township in 1835, one of the first settlers.

Leonard, Joseph C.—Born in Chenango county, N. Y., August 11, 1817; died at Union City December 28, 1893. Came to Union City in 1842.

Lee, Stephen B.—Born in Ontario county, N. Y., Dec. 22, 1819. Came to Union township in 1851.

Lewis, Henry C.—Born in Orleans county, N. Y., May 5, 1820; died in Coldwater, in August, 1884. Came to Coldwater in the forties.

Lincoln, George W.—Born near Penn Yan, N. Y., Aug. 17, 1819. Came to Branch county in 1838 and resided in Union township. His father, Caleb Lincoln, was an early settler of Union City, where he died in 1884.

Lockwood, Ennis J.—Born in Ulster county, N. Y., May 14, 1834, came to Ovid township with father, Uriah Lockwood, in 1836.

McCarty, James A.—Born in Detroit, Dec. 11, 1814; died in Coldwater, Sept. 16, 1893. Came to Girard township with parents in 1831 and to Coldwater in 1833.

Mann, Peter I.—Born in Schoharie, N. Y., Feb. 17, 1815; died at Girard, Jan. 8, 1897. Came to Branch county in 1836.

Martin, Ira—Born in Jefferson county, N. Y., in 1827; died in Batavia township May 1, 1897. Came to Batavia in 1843.

Marsh, Emerson—Born in New York; died at Coldwater, January 26, 1892. Came to Branch county in 1838. Marsh's Corners, between Gilead and Bethel townships, named after him.

Moore, Henry N.—Born in Penfield, N. Y., Sept. 27, 1816; died at Coldwater, June 13, 1891. Came to Coldwater township in 1837 and settled permanently in 1844.

Murphey, James—Born in Cayuga county, N. Y., March 4, 1819; died in Coldwater township May 2, 1892. Came to Batavia township in early forties.

Mallow, Peter—Born in Alsace, Nov. 10, 1815. Settled in Noble township about 1840.

Mason, William B.—Born in Monroe county, N. Y., January 19, 1820. Came to Branch county with his father, Octavius Mason, in 1840.

McCrary, Alexander C.—Born in Tompkins county, N. Y., March 9, 1815. Came to Sherwood township in 1848, and later to Union township.

Mills, Adolphus—Was born in Matteson township Feb. 20, 1848.

Monroe, Jesse—Born in Cayuga county, N. Y., March, 1821. Came to Matteson township in 1843.

Monroe, Seth—Born in Cayuga county, N. Y., Aug. 4, 1827. Came to Bronson township in 1852.

Moore, Sharod—Born in New York in 1808. Settled in Bethel township in 1844.

Morrill, Ichabod P.—Born in Sandusky county, O., March 18, 1836. Came to Gilead township in 1852 and was later resident of Noble.

Mosley, Thomas—Born in Pittsfield, Mass., Aug. 17, 1794; died at Union City, Oct. 18, 1865. Came to Union City in 1841.

Meredith, Jesse—Born in Summit county, Penn., April 5, 1812. Came to Matteson township in 1850.

Mowry, William P.—Died Sept. 24, 1905; came into Ovid township in 1845.

McMechan, William—Born Jan. 5, 1805, in Bann Bridge, County Down, Ireland; died Nov. 19, 1887; came to Union City in the spring of 1846.

Mosely, William Augustus—Born in Westfield, Mass., Jan. 4, 1815; died in Minneapolis, Minn., in 1898.

Mitchell, Mrs. Sophronia (Hawley)—Born in Clifton Springs, N. Y., Oct. 27, 1811; died in Union City, April 23, 1906; came with her husband, Archibald Mitchell, to Union City in 1836.

Morrison, Jonathan—Came from Penfield, N. Y., about 1846, and settled on the farm in Girard on the east side of Morrison Lake.

Morrell, Jeremiah—Born in Vermont and came into Union township in the spring of 1837.

Newberry, Peter M.—Born in Saratoga county, N. Y., Dec. 14, 1810; died in Quincy, April 23, 1895. Came to Quincy township in 1837.

Nivison, Nathan—Born in Buffalo, N. Y., in 1810; died in Algansee township, Dec. 19, 1886. Came to Algansee in 1853.

Noyes, Austin—Born in Chenango county, N. Y., Jan. 11, 1816. Came to Batavia township in 1844.

Nicholls, Ansel—Born in Essex county, N. Y., May 14, 1804. Came to Quincy township in 1836.

Noyes, Gates Peter—Born Feb. 25, 1818; died May 7, 1906; came Sept. 18, 1843, with his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth (Southworth) Noyes, to the farm in Batavia township, where he died.

Olmsted, Nirum P.—Born in Calhoun county, Mich., July 18, 1839. Came in 1840 to Union township with father, G. P. Olmstead.

Parker, Samuel D.—Born in Erie county, O., Nov. 1, 1817; died Feb. 18, 1895. Came to Branch county in 1833.

Perry, Edwin R.—Born in Franklin county, N. Y., July 9, 1810; died in Union City, Feb. 22, 1894. Came to Union City in 1851.

Phillips, Daniel C.—Born in Onondaga county, N. Y., May 26, 1820; died in Algansee township Dec. 31, 1893. Came to Gilead with parents in 1838.

Porter, Philo—Born in Genesee county, N. Y., April 26, 1813; died at Coldwater Dec. 20, 1890. Came to Batavia township in 1836.

Paddock, Alfred—Born in Columbia county, N. Y., Dec. 16, 1823. Came to Girard township in 1853.

Paddock, Ephraim J.—Born in Wayne county, N. Y., March 3, 1822. Came to Branch county with his father, Ira Paddock, in 1836.

Palmateer, Franklin—Born in New York in 1838. Came to Branch county with father, John Palmateer, in 1846.

Parrish, Asa—Born at Honeoye Falls, N. Y., March 4, 1811; died at Coldwater Nov. 18, 1885. Came to Coldwater in 1836, and was connected with early milling and built the first furnace for manufacture of iron work. Andrew S. Parrish, of Coldwater, was a son.

Parsons, Solomon—Born in Chenango county, N. Y., Oct. 15, 1810. Came to the vicinity of Union City late in 1836.

Paul, David—Born in New York, April 16, 1819. Came to California township in 1844.

Pierce, Henry—Born in St. Johnsbury, Vt., Dec. 5, 1808. Settled in Girard township in 1839.

Polhamus, Albert—Born in New York, Jan. 8, 1823. Settled in Quincy township in 1850.

Pratt, Jacob Franklin—Born in Cortland county, N. Y., May 8, 1829; still living in Coldwater. Came to Coldwater in 1852.

Purinton, David B.—Born in Cortland county, N. Y., May 8, 1829. Came to Coldwater in 1848.

Pixley, Augustus—Born in East Bloomfield, N. Y., Oct. 18, 1822; died in Bronson, Nov. 27, 1905. Came to Bronson Feb. 9, 1843.

Ruggles, James—Born in Toronto, Can., April 22, 1803; died in Bronson, March 16, 1891. Came to Branch village in 1835 and to Bronson in 1837.

Rose, Lorenzo A.—Born in Niagara county, N. Y., Oct. 25, 1822; died at Bronson March 13, 1893. Came with parents to Bronson in 1835.

Rowell, A. S.—Born in Penfield, N. Y., Sept. 25, 1812; died at Coldwater, May 9, 1893. Came to Coldwater about 1843.

Rogers, Dr. Dennis W.—Born in Jerusalem, N. Y., Feb. 25, 1826; died at Union City, Jan. 24, 1898. Came to Branch county in 1859.

Reynolds, Francis—Born in Jefferson county, N. Y., April 10, 1822. Came to Matteson township in 1844.

Richardson, Elias—Born in Bronson township in 1830, son of John G. Richardson.

Roberts, John—Born in Niagara county, N. Y., March 14, 1818. Came to Coldwater township with father, Francis Roberts, in 1836.

Root, Roland—(See sketch of E. R. Root).

Root, John—Born in Onondaga county, N. Y., Aug. 18, 1823; died at Coldwater, March 23, 1866. Came to Coldwater in 1844.

Rowell, Jared M.—Born in New York; died in Union City, Jan. 13, 1874. Came to Sherwood township in 1844.

Rumsey, John—Born in Marion county, O., March 8, 1822. Came to Matteson township in 1846.

Russell, George—Born in Claremont, N. H., Oct. 9, 1805. Came to Branch county in 1844 and settled in Girard township in 1846.

Russell, Jonathan T.—Born in Sherwood township Sept. 15, 1836, son of Joseph Russell, who came to the county in 1834.

Ransom, Francis D.—Born in Onondaga county, N. Y., Jan. 5, 1816. Came to Algansee township in 1837.

Reid, William—Came from Batavia, N. Y., to Bethel township in October, 1837.

Shoecraft, Barnabas B.—Born in Monroe county, N. Y., May 19, 1818; died in Coldwater township, Jan. 5, 1895. Came to the county in 1854.

Southworth, J. B.—A pioneer of the county, died in Coldwater township May 16, 1892.

Sager, George—Born in Wayne county, N. Y., May 2, 1824. Came to Bronson township about 1840.

Sebring, John—Born in Wayne county, N. Y., April 10, 1824. Came to Quincy in 1854 and was connected with the first saw mill of the village.

Shaw, William E.—Born in Ovid township, Nov. 27, 1846.

Sheneman, John—Born in Wayne county, Penn., in 1800; died in Batavia township July 29, 1875. Came to Batavia township in 1843.

Shumway, Alfred—Born in Wayne county, N. Y., July 12, 1818; died April 26, 1874. Came to this county in 1849.

Sisco, Henry—Born at Troy, Vt., Sept. 28, 1810. Came to section 22, Union township, in 1836.

Smith, Benjamin H.—Born in New Jersey, April 14, 1898; died in Girard township Sept. 22, 1879. Came to Branch county in 1833 and was associated with Abram Aldrich in the first mill at Hodunk.

Smith, Abram L.—Son of preceding, born in this county Oct. 21, 1838.

Sorter, William C.—Born in Steuben county, N. Y., Jan. 3, 1837. Came to Ovid township with father Jacob S. in 1838.

Stanton, Edward D.—Born Cayuga county, N. Y., Aug. 10, 1833. Came with father, John Stanton, to Sherwood township in June, 1836.

Strong, Myron W.—Born in Allegany county, N. Y., Sept. 30, 1829. Came to Kinderhook township with his father Calvin Strong in 1838.

Stockwell, Parley—Born in Mass., Dec., 1803; died at Coldwater January 8, 1890.

Smith, Walter W.—Born in Vermont. Settled permanently in Noble township in 1842.

Sanders, Abishai—Came into Gilead in 1831.

Swan, Levi—Came from New London township, Huron county, O., to Quincy township in April, 1849.

Sheneman, John Harrison—Came with his parents, John and Catharine Kenter Sheneman, Oct. 14, 1844, to the place now occupied by him in Batavia township near the station.

Streeter, Cornelius—Born Oct. 12, 1823, in Sterling, Cayuga county, N. Y.; died in Algansee township May 10, 1906; came into Quincy township in 1850.

Taggart, David—Born July 9, 1809; died July 22, 1900; he came to Bronson township with his wife, Mrs. Sarah (Perry) Taggart, in the fall of 1836. Their children as follows were all born before 1850:

Taggart, John—Born Jan. 20, 1840, in Bronson township on what is known as the Secor farm; he has lived longer in the township than any other man in it at present (1906), having lived in it continuously since his birth except two years in the army.

Taggart, Frederick William—Born Feb., 1842; died in July, 1862, in Camp Douglas in Chicago.

Taggart, Benjamin Perry—Born Aug., 1844; still living in Bronson township.

Taggart, George David—Lives in Linneus, Linn Co., Mo.

Taggart, Henry C.—Born May 14, 1848; lives in same place as preceding.

Taggart, Sarah Maria—Born May 17, 1850; now Mrs. William Bushnell and living in Bronson.

Taylor, Leonard—Born in Monroe county, N. Y., April 13, 1829. Came with father, Leonard Taylor, to Batavia township in 1835, his father being proprietor of the Taylor Tavern on the Chicago road.

Tift, David—Born in Allegany county, N. Y.; died in Algansee township in February, 1859. Came to Branch county in 1837, settling in Algansee in the following year. Was father of Roswell D., Albert J. and Jerome B.

Tilton, George W.—Born in Herkimer county, N. Y., March 2, 1812. Settled on section 15, Matteson township, in 1841.

Tripp, George—Born in Otsego county, N. Y., April 10, 1809; was at the time of his death, Sept. 11, 1889, the oldest settler of Kinderhook. Came to Kinderhook in 1836.

Tucker, John B.—Born in Connecticut September 28, 1811; died at Union City, July 1, 1895. Located in Union City during the forties.

Treat, Samuel—Born in Oneida county, N. Y., March 13, 1876. Came to Ovid township in 1837.

Turner, Ashley—Born in Ontario county, N. Y., Feb. 5, 1813. Came to Matteson township with father, Nathaniel, in 1835.

Van Orthwick, A. A.—Born Seneca county, N. Y., Dec. 19, 1829. Came to Branch county in 1852.

Whitehead, Reuben—Came into Coldwater township from Penfield, N. Y., in 1836.

Williams, Ryan—Came into the township of Sherwood in 1833.

Warren, John G.—Came to Coldwater in 1835 with his wife, Lois P. (Howland) Warren; died in 1869. They were both charter members of the Methodist church of Coldwater, and later withdrew to form the Wesleyan church.

Wing, Jason Ward—Came to Bronson township in 1844.

Wheat, Benjamin F.—Born Ontario county, N. Y., August 18, 1817; died in Quincy Oct. 27, 1894. Came to Quincy in 1852.

Williams, George Q.—Born in Essex county, N. Y., Aug. 27, 1828; died at Coldwater, Jan. 15, 1894. Came to Quincy with his father Alpheus Williams in 1836. Edward was another son of Alpheus.

Williams, Clark H.—Born in New Paltz, N. Y., April 23, 1813; died in Coldwater township April 17, 1897. Came to Coldwater in March, 1836.

Woodard, Bernetty—Died in Ovid township October 22, 1897, aged

one hundred and two years. Her death occurred within a few hours of that of Dr. W. B. Sprague, the other noted centenarian of Branch county.

Wilson, Daniel L.—Born in Penfield, N. Y., Jan. 9, 1813; died in Coldwater township, Dec. 4, 1889. Came to Coldwater township in 1837.

Waggott, Robert—Born in Somersetshire, England, Sept. 1, 1828. Came to Coldwater township in 1841.

Weatherwax, Joseph A.—Born in Orleans county, N. Y., July 5, 1822. Settled in Butler township in 1850.

Wilcox, Newcomb—Born in Ontario county, N. Y., Nov. 3, 1803. Came to Branch county in 1837, becoming a well known pioneer of Sherwood township.

Wilson, James R.—Born in Yates county, N. Y., Jan. 12, 1836. Came to Ovid township in 1836, with father, Reuben Wilson.

Woods, Dr. Richard—Born in Bradford county, Penn., April 24, 1835; died in Quincy township Dec. 4, 1880.

Wright, Charles S.—Born in Connecticut, April 7, 1832. Came to Ovid township in 1847.

Waterman, Alonzo—Born near Syracuse, N. Y., April 10, 1810. Came to Bronson in 1832.

Warner, Harvey—Born in Warren county, N. Y., April 5, 1809. Came to Coldwater township in 1831.

Whitcomb, Luke H.—Born at Brandon, Vt., Feb. 6, 1808. Came to Coldwater in July, 1836.

Young, Seth C.—Born in Cayuga county, N. Y., June 3, 1808. Came to Bethel township in the thirties, later locating in Bronson township.

CHAPTER XXX.

THE COUNTY IN THE COUNTRY'S WARS.

The military record of Branch county during the Civil war was remarkable. If any county of the Union offered the flower of its manhood to the cause with greater unanimity of numbers and devotion of patriotism, it would be difficult to name it. For four years the interests and resources of Branch county were directed to the preservation of the Union. It will always be a matter of lasting pride and a part of the permanent historical record of the county that the patriotism of the citizens was manifested in such splendid manner. The names of those who enlisted from this county to fight on the battlefields of the south deserve space in every history that shall ever be written of the county, and for this reason the individual records of Branch county soldiers in the Civil war are appended in full to this chapter.

While this record describes in detail the performance of the companies and regiments and individuals from Branch county, it should not be forgotten that those who staid at home had an equally important work to perform. There were the indigent families of absent soldiers to be cared for. Thousands of dollars, not to mention the more valuable personal attention and assistance, were turned toward this work. Here as everywhere over the country the women organized to carry on their work of practical helpfulness. Their committees visited and carried the necessities and comforts of life to the sick and poor at home; sent their generous contributions of food and home-made delicacies to the soldiers' hospitals in the field; made clothing for those fighting at the front; and in the hundreds of ways that cannot be described here gave evidence of patriotism as necessary to the winning of the war as that displayed by the soldiers on the field.

In the period of time with which the history of Branch county deals, the Civil war is, of course, the pre-eminent military event. The Revolution was fifty years old at the time the county began to be settled. Some of the survivors of the war of 1812 settled in the county, but aside from this the county had no connection with the second war with the mother country. The war with Mexico in 1846 made comparatively small demand on the volunteer forces of the country, and no organization and probably no individuals from Branch county participated in that war.

Branch county's connection with the Spanish-American war and its sequence in the Philippines is a matter of individual mention with the exception of the part taken by the "Coldwater Light Guard." This organization, which was formed in August, 1871, of forty-one members and was mustered into the state militia in that year, is the best known military com-

pany in Branch county outside of those that originated in Civil war times. The first commissioned officers were: George H. Turner, captain; A. E. Stowell, first lieutenant; C. H. DeClute, second lieutenant. In November, 1877, this became the basis of the civil organization known as the Coldwater Light Guard Association, whose first officers were F. D. Newberry, C. N. Legg and Alonzo Thompson. "Armory Hall" on Hanchett street was constructed by this association. The association is one of the most popular and strongest societies in the county, the military purpose which is the basis and essential purpose of the organization being supplemented by the social comradeship which is characteristic of the fraternal societies.

When war against Spain was declared in April, 1898, the Light Guard tendered their services to the United States and were organized as Company A of the Thirty-second Michigan Infantry. They were sent south, but like the majority of Michigan regiments in that war, did not reach the field of actual hostilities. Their period of service away from home was six months.

The old Coldwater Light Guard is now Company A of the Second Regiment of the Michigan National Guard. Besides the legal corporation representing the company, and the Reunion Association of the Spanish War soldiers, there is also "The Coldwater Light Guard Veterans' Association," which was organized April 8, 1905, with the following officers: Edwin R. Root, president; T. A. Hilton, vice president; Mark S. Andrews, secretary and treasurer. All who have been at any time members of the Light Guard Company or Company A, are eligible to membership.

At its last reunion, in May, 1906, Company A voted all Spanish-American veterans in this section members of its association. The officers of the association elected at this reunion were: Jay Van Aken, president; Frank L. Earley, vice president; James B. Smullen, secretary and treasurer; Mark S. Andrews, historian.

Company A, Thirty-second Michigan Infantry, U. S. V., mustered into United States service at Island Lake, Michigan, May 12, 1898, for the Spanish-American war of 1898:

Company Officers.

Capt., Frank D. Newberry,
1st Lieut., Ed. D. Legg,
2nd Lieut., Fred E. Ferguson.

Sergeants.

1st, Charles Culp,
Q. M., James B. Smullen,
Frank B. Reynolds, color sergt.,
Robert Rattray, Jr.,
Frank L. Earley,
Fred G. Barber.

Corporals.

Origin L. Bingham,
Norman C. Kimbal,
Ambrose M. Talmage,
Guy A. Thurston,
Charles S. Stuart,
Guy T. Keene,
Mark S. Andrews,
George S. Craw,
Oscar C. Dubendorf,
Hal S. Legg,
Bert Herrick,
William H. King.

Musicians.

Ralph J. Andrews,
Clarence H. Barrett.

Artificer.

William H. Stockwell.

Wagoner.

Judson S. Lockwood.

Privates.

Akenhead, Leo F.; Ambrose, J. C. P.; Burr, Charles; Barlow, Burt E.; Barlow, Nathan (transferred to Division Hospital); Betts, William W.; Bidwell, Fred; Bolton, James; Bowen, Orrin M.; Bowersox, Her-

bert S.; Brooks, Frank; Bender, Jay H.; Burns, Edward A.; Champion, A. Sidney; Cole, Bert W.; Cosper, Lee; Cox, Grant S.; Davenport, Don P.; Drake, Ned C.; Dunn, George A.; Eligh, Loren R.; Fisk, Caleb B.; Fisk, Hervey C.; Foote, J. B. (transferred to Division Hospital); Fuller, Ernest E.; Gardner, Elton G.; Goble, Arthur G.; Grundy, Samuel J.; Hadley, Cornelius M.; Hilliar, Lynn L.; Holland, Austin; Hoyt, William T.; Jerome, Horace; Kelley, Frank A.; Kennedy, James F.; Lindsey, Frank E.; Langdon, Ruben H.; Magle, George; Martin, Albert R.; Marvin, William W.; Mason, William B.; Miner, Wesley A.; Mason, Laverne E.; Nachbauer, Andrew A.; Nichols, Frank A.; Nichols, Frederick S.; Niveson, George E.; Olmstead, Ensign; Otis, Stephen A.; Palmer, Wilber C.; Peppiatt, Frederick J.; Preston, Frederick S.; Rolph, Benjamin E.; Saunders, Fred B.; Saxton, L. Glenn; Shoecraft, James R.; Short, Charles W.; Shank, John B.; Shank, Herman L.; Silverthorn, Levi A.; Simmons, Charles F.; Skinner, William N.; Smith, Timothy E.; Smith, H. Eugene; Smith, James T.; Snyder, Harry A.; Stahowiak, Martin C.; Stettler, Verney R.; Stoddard, Ralph R.; Stygles, Coaly L.; Teachout, George I.; Teller, Lynn R.; Teller, Ray E.; Thompson, Dell; Tompkins, George; Treat, Burkella J.; Turner, William H.; Underwood, Paul G.; Van Aken, Jay H.; Vielhaber, William D.; Voorhees, Fred; Wallace, Edward C.; Wattles, Rich D.; Wilcox, Fred A.; Williams, Elto L.; Wing, Sigmund.

Branch County's Soldiers in the Civil War.

The Three Months' Regiment of First Michigan Infantry organized immediately after the fall of Fort Sumpter, mustered in at Fort Wayne, Detroit, was the first regiment to reach Washington from west of the Alleghenies. Its only engagement was at Bull Run, July 21, 1861. The regiment was mustered out August 7, 1861.

MEMBERS OF THE FIRST INFANTRY (THREE MONTHS) FROM BRANCH COUNTY.

Company C.

Ebenezer Butterworth, capt.; enl. May 1, 1861; captured at battle of Bull Run, Va., July 21, 1861; died in rebel hospital, of wounds. Aug. 17, 1861.

Charles E. Eggleston, 1st lieut.; enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.

George H. Eggleston, 2d lieut.; enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.

Charles B. Lincoln, 1st sergt.; enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.

Samuel N. Andrews, 2d sergt.; enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.

George Rhodes, 3d sergt.; enl. May 1, 1861; captured at battle of Bull Run, Va., July 21, 1861; confined in Libby prison; must. out May 20, 1862.

Charles P. Whitcomb, 4th sergt.; enl. May 1, 1861; captured at battle of Bull Run, Va., July 21, 1861; confined in Libby prison; must. out May 20, 1862.

Joseph H. Crup, 1st corp.; enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.

Curtis S. Mills, 2d corp.; enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.

Albert R. Potter, 3d corp.; enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.

Sylvester B. Wright, 4th corp.; enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.

Nelson Abbott, musician; enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.

Silas L. Parker, musician; enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.

PRIVATES.

Henry C. Adams, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.

Benjamin F. Archer, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.

George W. Abbott, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.

Albert C. Allen, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.

Henry Abbott, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.

Lorenzo F. Brown, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.

William L. Burritt, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.

Henry Butler, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.

Peter Budawa, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.

Martin Burleson, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.

Charles Bickford, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.

Aaron Bagley, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.

James Bennett, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.

William H. Bryon, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.

Jonas P. Brown, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.

Chas. Brinkerhoof, enl. May 1, 1861; wounded at Bull Run, Va., July 21, 1861.
Chauncey S. Blivin, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Thomas Blivin, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Daniel B. Campbell, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Hamilton Collier, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Edward Catlin, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Edward Craft, enl. May 1, 1861; must out Aug. 7, 1861.
Lester B. Callahan, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
George Conger, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Geo. D. Drury, enl. May 1, 1861; taken prisoner at battle of Bull Run, Va., and confined in Libby prison; must. out May 20, 1862.
Martin Damm, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Gilbert Declute, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Lafayette Finch, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Smith W. Fisk, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
David Fox, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Isaiah Fox, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Irving S. Graham, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Edward Gavitt, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Charles Holmes, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Daniel M. Holmes, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
William Heuse, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Leander C. Handy, enl. May 1, 1861: must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Solomon Holben, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Charles C. Harvey, enl. May 1, 1861; taken prisoner at battle of Bull Run, Va., July 21, 1861; confined in Libby prison; must. out May 20, 1862.
James D. C. Harvey, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Smith H. Hastings, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Edward Hewitt, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Benj. J. Knappen, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Edward Knappen, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Edward B. Kirby, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Edward Lewis, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Franklin Minzey, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
John S. Mossman, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Squire W. Mellendy, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Wilson Meddaugh, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Joseph McKinne, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
John Olmstead, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Philo P. Peckham, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Horace L. Perkins, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Franklin Roberts, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Calvin D. Strong, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
John D. Smails, enl. May 1, 1861; taken prisoner at battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861; confined in Libby prison; must. out May 20, 1862.
John Sullivan, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Cady Smith, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Squire S. Skeels, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Baxter Strong, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Ross A. Warner, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Robert Williams, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
George Wright, enl. May 1, 1861; must. out Aug. 7, 1861.
Ralston Walker, enl. May 1, 1861; taken prisoner at battle of Bull Run, Va., July 21, 1861; confined in Libby prison; must. out May 20, 1862.

After the muster-out of the Three Months' men, the First regiment was reorganized as a three years' regiment. The regiment proceeded to Washington in September, 1861; was on guard duty during the fall and winter; in the Peninsular campaign against Richmond in 1862, fighting at Mechanicsville, Gaines Mill, and Malvern Hill; later at Gainesville and second Bull Run; at Antietam, in September, 1862, and at Fredericksburg in December. In 1863 engaged at Chancellorsville and at Gettysburg. In 1864, at

Alsop's Farm, Spottsylvania, North Anna, Jericho Mills, Cold Harbor; and in the engagements centering about and including Petersburg and the conclusion of the Virginia campaign at Appomattox Court House. Was discharged at Jackson, Michigan, July 12, 1865.

MEMBERS OF THE FIRST INFANTRY (THREE YEARS) FROM BRANCH COUNTY.

Abram S. Kirkland, 2d lieut.; enl. May 30, 1863; 1st lieut. (as sergt.), July 15, 1863; must. out with regiment, July 9, 1865.
George H. Eggleston, 1st lieut.; enl. Aug. 17, 1861; res. March 28, 1863.
Alexander Black, Co. E; disch. at Washington, D. C., Jan. 23, 1863.
William H. Barnham, Co. E; accidentally killed, Oct. 18, 1862.
Henry C. Babcock, Co. E.
William F. Braddock, Co. E; must. out July 9, 1865.
Robert W. Baker, Co. C; disch.
John N. Bunker, Co. E; died of disease, Washington, D. C., July 13, 1863.
Joseph D. Bennett, Co. E; disch. to re-enl. as veteran, Feb. 17, 1864.
James Corey, Co. E; died of disease at Annapolis, Md., March 7, 1862.
Edward Curtis, Co. E; must. out July 9, 1865.
Daniel Cook, Co. E; disch. at Fort Schuyler, Jan. 23, 1863.
John Clarke, Co. E; disch. at expiration of service, Oct. 10, 1864.
Ira S. Chappell, Co. E; disch. to re-enl. as veteran, Dec. 25, 1863; must. out July 9, 1865.
James G. Depue, Co. E; died in action at Bull Run, Va., Aug. 30, 1862.
Theodore Davis, Co. E; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 9, 1864.
Crayton D. Eldred, Co. E; disch.
Jared Evans, Co. E; died of disease in Washington, D. C., May 3, 1864.
Beech N. Fisk, Co. E; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 16, 1864.
David Fox, Co. E; disch. at expiration of service, Oct. 30, 1864; was in battles of Bull Run, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville.
George Hillman, Co. E; died in action at Bull Run, Aug. 30, 1862.
Francis E. Hadley, Co. E; disch. by order, Dec. 15, 1862.
Amos Hunt, Co. C; disch. for disability, April 10, 1863.
Abram S. Kirkland, Co. E; disch. to re-enl. as veteran, Feb. 17, 1864; must. out July 9, 1865.
James Lauver, Co. E; disch. May 1, 1862.
Simeon P. Miles, Co. C; died in action at Bull Run, Va., Aug. 30, 1862.
James M. Vane, Co. E; died of disease in Richmond, Jan. 15, 1864.
William J. Moody, Co. E; must. out July 9, 1865.
Martin J. Miney, Co. E; disch. to re-enl. as veteran, Feb. 17, 1864.
Oscar Nash, Co. A; disch. to re-enl. as veteran, Feb. 17, 1864.
Ludovic Nye, Co. E; disch. Sept. 8, 1862.
George F. Niverson, Co. E; disch. at Potomac Creek, Jan. 3, 1863.
Theodore E. Oliver, Co. C; disch. Nov. 17, 1862.
Henry C. Odell, Co. D; disch. to re-enl. as veteran, Dec. 25, 1863.
Byron Potter, Co. E; killed in action at Bull Run, Aug. 30, 1862.
Ansel J. Potter, Co. E; died of disease, Washington, D. C., Aug. 20, 1863.
James E. Perry, Co. E; disch.
David C. Reynolds, Co. E; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 9, 1864.
Hazelton Saunders, Co. E; disch. Jan. 21, 1862.
Hiram Sweet, Co. E; died in action at Gettysburg, Pa., July 2, 1863.
James C. Smith, Co. E; disch. for disability, Feb. 9, 1863.
George H. Skinner, Co. E; disch. Jan. 3, 1863.
Nehemiah Spencer, Co. E; disch. to re-enl. as veteran, Dec. 25, 1863.
C. A. Tompkins, Co. E; disch. at expiration of service, Oct. 30, 1864.
George F. Trumbull, Co. E; disch. Nov. 17, 1862.
Burnet A. Tucker, Co. E; died of wounds in Washington, D. C., Sept. 10, 1862.
Horace M. Withington, Co. E; died in action at Bull Run, Aug. 30, 1862.
Emmet R. Wood, Co. E; died in action at Bull Run, Aug. 30, 1862.
Eugene Wilson, Co. E; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 9, 1864.
Jefferson Woods, Co. E; disch. to re-enl. as veteran, Dec. 25, 1863; must. out July 9, 1865.
Willard Whitney, Co. E; disch. to re-enl. as veteran, Feb. 17, 1864; must. out July 9, 1865.
William Whalen, Co. E; disch. to re-enl. as veteran, Feb. 17, 1864.
Levi Webb, Co. B; died of disease at Burr Oak, Mich., Feb. 17, 1865.
Henry E. Whitney, Co. E; died of disease at Washington, D. C., Jan. 2, 1863.
Leonard Whitmoyer, Co. B; must. out July 9, 1865.
David Williams, Co. C; discharged for disability, Nov. 1, 1862.

The Seventh Michigan Infantry, organized in summer of 1861, and sent to Virginia, participated at Ball's Bluff, and in 1862 was in the siege of Yorktown, the battle of Fair Oaks, and in the "Seven Days' Fight," culminating at Malvern Hill; in second Bull Run, South Mountain and Antietam, and foremost in the action at Fredericksburg; was at Chancellorsville and in the Gettysburg campaign; in 1864 was in the Wilderness, at Spottsylvania Court House, at Cold Harbor, and other actions about Richmond; and was in the siege of Petersburg and constantly fighting almost to the day of Lee's surrender. The regiment was disbanded at Jackson, Michigan, July 7, 1865.

MEMBERS OF THE SEVENTH INFANTRY FROM BRANCH COUNTY.

Jeremiah Buys, Co. K; died of disease at Alexandria, Va., Dec. 15, 1862.
Hezekiah Brooks, Co. K; must. out July 5, 1865.
William H. Burns, Co. K; died of wounds at Antietam, Md., Sept. 17, 1862.
David Blanchard, Co. K; disch. for disability, June 10, 1865.
Albert A. Blanchard, Co. K; must. out July 5, 1865.
Horace Calhoun, Co. I; died of wounds at White Oak Swamp, June 30, 1862.
Chauncey G. Cole, Co. I; must. out July 5, 1865.
Nelson W. Clark, Co. K; disch. by order, July 21, 1865.
Daniel Clouse, Co. K; must. out July 5, 1865.
Alonzo Converse, Co. K; must. out July 5, 1865.
Madison J. Eggleston, Co. K; must. out July 5, 1865.
Lewis Fry, Co. K; disch. by order, June 24, 1865.
Samuel Fry, Co. I; disch. by order, July 31, 1865.
John B. Ford, Co. K; missing in action, Aug. 25, 1864.
Fred H. Gould, Co. I; died of disease near Yorktown, Va., May 13, 1862.
Alonzo Glass, Co. I; died of wounds at South Anna River, Va., June 1, 1864.
John Green, Co. K; must. out July 5, 1865.
Charles R. Green, Co. K; disch. to re-enl. as vet., Dec. 18, 1863.
Oliver Green, Co. K; missing in action, June 2, 1864.
Lorenzo Gates, Co. K; died of wounds Sept. 25, 1862.
Lorenzo C. Hurd, Co. K; disch. for disability, Nov. 24, 1862.
Edwin E. Howard, Co. C; disch. for disability, Nov. 1, 1861.
Onias Hopkins, Jr., Co. K; disch. May, 1863.
James Hopkins, Co. I; missing at Cold Harbor, Va., June 9, 1864.
Nathaniel Hopkins, Co. K; transferred to Vet. Res. Corps, April 10, 1864.
Daniel Holbrook, Co. K; missing at Hatcher's Run, Va., Oct. 28, 1864.
William J. Leary, Co. I; died of wounds at Fair Oaks, Va., May 31, 1862.
William Latta, Co. K; died of disease at Washington, Nov. 8, 1862.
David S. Meddaugh, Co. K; disch. Dec. 25, 1861.
John Monroe, Co. K; died at Andersonville, Ga., Sept. 5, 1864.
Mahlon Meyer, Co. I; died of disease in summer, 1862.
Thomas Miller, Co. K; missing at Hatcher's Run, Oct. 28, 1864.
Darius Monroe, Co. K; disch. by order, May 31, 1865.
Truman E. Mason, Co. K; disch. to enl. in U. S. Cav., Oct. 21, 1862.
Walter Nichols, Co. K; disch. to re-enl. as vet., Dec. 18, 1863.
James Pepper, Jr., Co. K; must. out July 5, 1865.
George Pedler, Co. K; must. out July 5, 1865.
Joseph Pullman, Co. K; disch. by order, Jan. 13, 1865.
William Queer, Co. K; must. out July 5, 1865.
Hiram Refner, Co. B; must. out July 5, 1865.
Henry Rogers, Co. K; died of disease at Windmill Point, Va., Jan. 7, 1863.
Clark Reynolds, Co. C; died in action at Antietam, Md., Sept. 17, 1862.
Justin Shaply, Co. K; died Jan. 29, 1862.
Andrew J. Silliway, Co. I; died of disease at Washington, D. C., July 1, 1864.
Edbert Schemerhorn, Co. K; disch. May 25, 1865.
James Sheffield, Co. K; must. out July 5, 1865.
Thomas Silliway, Co. K; must. out July 5, 1865.
Levi R. Tuttle, Co. K; disch. at expiration of service, Aug. 22, 1864.
John Taggott, Co. K; must. out July 5, 1865.

William B. Valade, Co. D; missing at Hatcher's Run, Va., Oct. 28, 1864.
Zachary Wells, Co. I; must. out July 5, 1865.
Stacey F. Weatherby, Co. K; disch. by order, July 21, 1865.

The Ninth Infantry, raised in 1861, was sent to Kentucky in October; was stationed at Fort Donelson, Nashville, Murfreesboro, a portion of the regiment being captured at Murfreesboro; participated at Stone River and Chickamauga. In December, 1863, the regiment re-enlisted as a veteran organization. In 1864 was in all the operations of the Army of the Cumberland in Georgia and Tennessee, returning from Atlanta to Chattanooga, and then to Nashville, where it was mustered out September 15, 1865.

MEMBERS OF THE NINTH INFANTRY FROM BRANCH COUNTY.

John G. Parkhurst, Coldwater, lieut.-col.; enl. Sept. 10, 1861; captured at Murfreesboro', Tenn., July 13, 1862; released Dec. 3, 1862; col., Feb. 6, 1863; brevt. brig.-gen., May 22, 1865; must. out Nov. 10, 1865.
Mortimer Mansfield, Coldwater, 1st lieut.; enl. Oct. 12, 1861; capt., Jan. 7, 1862; captured at Murfreesboro', Tenn., July 13, 1862; released Aug. 8, 1862; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
William A. Hull, Coldwater, 2d lieut.; enl. Oct. 12, 1861; 1st lieut., Feb. 8, 1862; captured at Murfreesboro', July 13, 1862; released Dec. 3, 1862; capt., April 9, 1863; resigned Aug. 22, 1864, to enter gunboat service.
Charles W. Bennett, Quincy, 2d lieut.; enl. Jan. 17, 1863; capt. in U. S. colored troops, Oct. 26, 1863; brevet major, Oct., 1865; must. out June 14, 1866.
Rev. Joseph Wood, chaplain; enl. Feb. 19, 1864; not mustered.
Robert Eberhard, Co. G; disch. by order, Sept. 28, 1865.
Thomas A. Eberhard, Co. G; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Charles E. Gregg, Co. E; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
George Gregg, Co. E; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Isaac Gould, Co. F; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Dennis Blacken, Co. G; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Joseph F. Hill, Co. B; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
William Hassett, Co. D; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Henry Nessey, Co. D; must. out June 20, 1865.
Parker Howes, Co. D; must. out June 20, 1865.
Henry Hungerford, Co. D; must. out Jan. 21, 1865.
John S. Haines, Co. D; must. out June 20, 1865.
Puches Hilliar, Co. G; disch. to enl. as veteran, Dec. 7, 1863.
Marion A. Howard, Co. H; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Charles Jordon, Co. G; died of disease at West Point, Ky., Dec. 1, 1861.
John W. Klotz, Co. D; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Henry C. Kenyon, Co. G; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
William Krapohl, Co. G; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
John P. Kidney, Co. G; must. out Sept. 15, 1865; came from 4th Inf.
Frank Lester, Co. C; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Fred. Lautz, Co. G; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Fred. Lipstaff, Co. G; disch. by order, June 20, 1865.
Charles P. Lake, Co. K; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Henry Lake, Co. K; disch. by order, Sept. 28, 1865.
Fred. Miller, Co. H; died of disease at Coldwater, Mich., Feb. 14, 1864.
George Mathews, Co. B; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Francis McGurk, Co. G; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Alex McIntyre, Co. G; disch. by order, June 20, 1865.
Daniel R. McKay, Co. G; disch. by order, June 20, 1865.
Henry Melvin, Co. G; disch. by order, June 20, 1865.
Alvin Marks, Co. I; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
George H. Newell, N. C. S.; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Lewis H. Nathans, Co. B; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Thomas L. Nixon, Co. H; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Andrew Nupher, Co. G; disch. to enl. as veteran, Dec. 7, 1863.
Dewitt Pierce, Co. C; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Addison J. Peckham, Co. G; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Daniel G. Parker, Co. G; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.

Joseph E. Penner, Co. H; died of disease at White Pigeon, Mich., Dec. 7, 1861.
Riley Pierce, Co. H; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Henry Robinson, Co. K; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Jeremiah Rhodes, Co. G; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
John Ross, Co. G; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Charles E. Rhodes, Co. F; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
David Rodgers, Co. F; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Simon Ream, Co. B; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
George Rogers, Co. B; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Adams Reed, Co. B; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Barnard L. Rider, Co. K; died of disease at Nashville, Tenn, May 24, 1865.
James Reynolds, Co. G; died of disease at Murfreesboro', Tenn., July 13, 1862.
William J. Sternbaugh, Co. G; died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., June 13, 1865.
Barlow Smith, Co. G; disch. to enlist as veteran, Dec. 7, 1863.
Charles F. Smith, Co. A; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Armonus Springsteen, Co. E; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Rudolph Stickler, Co. F; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Bernard Schlieting, Co. G; disch. Jan. 16, 1865, for pro. in 45th Wis. Vols.
James F. Schemerhorn, Co. G; disch. to enlist as veteran, Dec. 7, 1863.
Levi Sprague, Co. G; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Benj. F. Safford, Co. I; disch. by order, June 20, 1865.
Calvin D. Smith, Co. I; disch. by order, June 20, 1865.
Alex. Tracy, Co. I; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Thaddeus Vining, Co. I; disch. by order, Sept. 28, 1865.
Michael Unrah, Co. B; died of disease at Galien, Mich., Sept., 1862.
B. E. Williams, Co. G; died of disease, June 1, 1864.
Henry Wiser, Co. G; died of disease at Chattanooga, Tenn., June 3, 1864.
John Winsey, Co. G; died of disease at Louisville, Ky., Dec. 12, 1864.
Henry C. Westfall, Co. B; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Ira M. Ware, Co. F; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Wm. H. Withington, Co. G; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Isaac Widemer, Co. G; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Carlos Whitmore, Co. G; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Steward Wilcox, Co. K; disch. by order, June 20, 1865.
Dyer Wood, Co. K; disch. by order, May 15, 1865.
Lanson C. Wilder, Co. K; disch. by order, June 20, 1865.
Charles H. Yates, Co. G; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
James Allen, Co. F; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Samuel E. Acker, Co. G; disch. March 14, 1865, for promotion in U. S. C. T.
Henry Bennett, Co. B; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Peter Bohn, Co. G; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Dwight G. Bolster, Co. G; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Henry Bordenas, Co. G; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Charles W. Bennett, Co. G; in battles Stone River, Chickamauga, Nashville, etc.; promoted. (See officers.)
Jackson Brown, Co. G; disch. by order, Sept. 28, 1865.
Howard Bradley, Co. G; disch. for disabilitv, Sept. 24, 1862.
William E. Bennett, Co. K; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Eli Bowen, Co. K; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Oren Bowen, Co. K; disch. by order, Sept. 25, 1865.
James Barnes, Co. G; disch. for disability, Sept. 20, 1862.
Winton B. Brooks, Co. K; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Charles W. Babbitt, Co. K; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Reuben S. Babbitt, Co. K; disch. by order, May 12, 1865.
James Callaghan, Co. B; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Nelson O. Caroyl, Co. B; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Lebannah E. Corder, Co. B; must. out. Sept. 15, 1865.
William Cannady, Co. B; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Lester O. Chapman, Co. G; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Charles Conrad, Co. G; died of disease at Coldwater, Mich., Aug. 15, 1862.
Stillman Crandall, Co. I; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Wm. A. Clark, Co. D; died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 29, 1862.
Henry Crippen, Co. I; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Herbert B. Davis, Co. G; died of disease April 1, 1864, at Chattanooga, Tenn.
Isaac Doughty, Co. B; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
William J. Dyer, Co. D; disch. by order, Sept. 29, 1865.

Melvin Dickinson, Co. C; disch. by order, Sept. 9, 1865.
Francis Duning, Co. F; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Andrew Demarest, Co. G; must. out Sept. 15, 1865; disch. to enlist as veteran, Dec. 7, 1863.
George W. Demarest, Co. G; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
Henry J. Dufres, Co. G; disch. by order, Feb. 10, 1865.
Lafayette Davis, Co. H; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
James D. Edwards, Co. C; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.
William Eberhard, Co. G; must. out Sept. 15, 1865.

The Eleventh Michigan Infantry, to which Branch county contributed Companies B and H, and most of Company D, was organized in 1861 and sent to Kentucky in December of that year. The first severe engagement was Stone River; in 1863 at Chickamauga; was foremost in the charge up Missionary Ridge; soon after with General Sherman in the Atlanta campaign and battles up to the capture of that city. Was mustered out at Sturgis, Sept. 13, 1864, but reorganized March 18, 1865, and was in Tennessee mainly on guard duty until middle of September. The regiment was disbanded at Jackson, Mich., Sept. 23, 1865.

MEMBERS OF ELEVENTH INFANTRY (OLD ORGANIZATION) FROM BRANCH COUNTY.

Melvin Mudge, Quincy, capt., Co. B; enl. Aug. 24, 1861; lieut.-col., Jan. 7, 1863; must. out at end of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Charles Moase, Bronson, capt., Co. G; enl. Aug. 24, 1861; res. Feb. 14, 1862; reappointed Feb. 14, 1862; res. Nov. 14, 1862.
John L. Hackstaff, Coldwater, capt., Co. H; enl. Aug. 24, 1861; res. March 11, 1862.
Jerome Bowen, Quincy, 1st lieut., Co. B; enl. Aug. 24, 1861; res. Nov. 26, 1862.
Samuel C. Mills, Coldwater, 1st lieut., Co. H; enl. Aug. 24, 1861; res. June 24, 1862.
Miles Warren, Quincy, 2d lieut., Co. H; enl. Aug. 24, 1861; res. Feb. 8, 1862.
Theo. P. Kessler, Bronson, 2d lieut., Co. H; enl. Aug. 24, 1861; res. Feb. 12, 1862.
Leonidas E. Mills, Coldwater, 2d lieut., Co. H; enl. Aug. 24, 1861; res. June 23, 1862.
Francis M. Bissell, Quincy, 2d lieut., Co. B; enl. Feb. 19, 1862; 1st lieut., Nov. 26, 1862; capt., Jan. 7, 1863; disch. for disability, June 4, 1864.
Linus T. Squire, Quincy, 2d lieut., June 24, 1862; 1st lieut., Jan. 1, 1863; adjt., Aug. 3, 1863; must. out at end of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Edward W. Catlin, Algansee, 2d lieut.; enl. March 12, 1862; 1st lieut., Dec. 10, 1862; capt., Jan. 13, 1864; died of wounds received Aug. 7, 1864, near Atlanta, Ga.
Benj. F. Hart, Bronson, 1st lieut., Co. D; enl. Jan. 9, 1864; must. out Sept. 30, 1864.
Chauncey E. Koon, Allen, 2d lieut., Co. B; enl. Nov. 26, 1862; 1st lieut., Jan. 7, 1863; capt., Jan. 17, 1864; must. out at end of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
James C. Cushman, Bronson, 1st lieut., Co. H; enl. Aug. 3, 1863; must. out at end of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Henry C. Adams, Coldwater, 2d lieut.; enl. March 1, 1865; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Irving S. Graham, Quincy, 2d lieut.; enl. June 1, 1865; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Frank H. Lane, Bronson, capt.; enl. Jan. 7, 1863; dismissed July 13, 1864.
Herman C. Adams, Co. B; disch. by order to Vet. Res. Corps, Aug. 1, 1863.
Jesse Belcher, Co. B; trans. to 16th Mich. Inf., Sept. 20, 1861.
Augustus Barjerow, Co. B; disch. to enlist in regular service, Nov. 25, 1862.
Henry C. Bennett, Co. B; disch. for disability, June 4, 1862.
Levi Busley, Co. B; disch. for disability, July 1, 1862.
Oliver Busley, Co. B; died in action at Stone River, Dec. 31, 1862.
Nathaniel E. Burch, Co. B; died of disease at Bardstown, Ky., Feb. 11, 1862.
Marcius J. Bissell, Co. B; died of disease at Bardstown, Ky., March 16, 1862.
Jerry M. Burleson, Co. B; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Joseph A. Bowen, Co. B; discharged by order, May 31, 1865.
Ozro A. Bowen, Co. B; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Andrew Clark, Co. B; died of disease at Belmont Furnace, Ky., April 18, 1862.
Thomas Clark, Co. B; disch. for disability, Sept. 15, 1862.
Christopher Conly, Co. B; disch. for disability, Oct. 18, 1862.
Wm. H. Cummings; died of wounds at Chattanooga, Tenn., Nov. 25, 1863.
William Clemens, Co. B; trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, Nov. 1, 1863.

George W. Catlin, Co. B; trans. to 16th Mich. Inf., Sept. 20, 1861.
John F. Cole, Co. B; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Lyman L. Cole, Co. B; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
James B. Daggett, Co. B; trans. to 16th Mich. Inf., Sept. 20, 1861.
Eugene Debois, Co. B; disch. for disability, Nov. 20, 1862.
Henry S. Danks, Co. B; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Melvin T. Edmonds, Co. B; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
William H. Emens, Co. B; disch. for disability, April 19, 1863.
Wilbur S. Harding, Co. B; disch. for disability, May 14, 1863.
Samuel Hedge, Co. B; died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 28, 1863.
Edwin J. Hull, Co. B; disch. for minority, Sept. 10, 1862.
Andrew J. Hawse, Co. B; disch. for minority, Sept. 10, 1862.
Daniel Haynes, Co. B; died Jan. 2, 1863, of wounds received at Stone River.
William W. Johnson, Co. B; died Dec. 31, 1862.
Francis Jerome, Co. B; disch. for disability, Feb. 11, 1863.
William Kerr; died of disease, at Murfreesboro, Tenn., Feb. 13, 1863.
Adelbert E. Lockwood, Co. B; disch. for disability June 4, 1862.
John McGinnis, Co. B; disch. for disability.
Levi McGinnis, Co. B; died at Murfreesboro', Feb. 4, 1863, of wounds.
Edward C. McDonald, Co. B; disch. for disability, Oct. 4, 1862.
Halsey Miller, Co. B; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864
Fred. Maltman, Co. B; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Orrin P. Nichols, Co. B; died in action at Stone River, Dec. 31, 1862.
Derry Nichols, Co. B; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Milo D. Niles, Co. B; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Joseph W. Perkins, Co. B; died of disease at Bardstown, Ky., Feb. 8, 1862.
Charles V. Patterson, Co. B; died at Kingston, Ga., of wounds, Aug. 24, 1864.
James Pierce, Co. B; died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 21, 1862.
Halsey E. Philips, Co. B; disch. for disability.
Ogden B. Philips, Co. B; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Menzo Philips, Co. B; disch. at expiration of service, Dec. 9, 1864.
Thomas C. Poynes, Co. B; disch. for disability, Dec. 2, 1862.
Edward Poynes, Co. B; disch. for disability March 9, 1863.
Edwin Poynes, Co. B; disch. at expiration of service; Sept. 30, 1864.
Aaron J. Parsons, Co. B; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Charles A. Reed, Co. B; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
George N. R. Runyon, Co. B; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
William I. Rogers, Co. B; trans. to Vet. Res. Corps.
Ansel, Rich, Co. B; taken prisoner at Chickamauga; died at Andersonville, Ga.
Roseo Somes, Co. B; disch. for disability, June 4, 1862.
David Sidley, Co. B; disch. for disability, July 1, 1862.
George Slayton, Co. B; disch. to enlist in regular service, Nov. 25, 1862.
Peter L. Schwartz, Co. B; disch, to enlist in regular service, Nov. 25, 1862.
George Schwartz, Co. B; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Martin Schwartz, Co. B; died at Litchfield, Mich., Feb. 5, 1864.
James Sweezey, Co. B; disch, at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Melvin Shear, Co. B; disch, at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
John G. Scripture, Co. B; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Joseph T. Tindall, Co. B; disch. for disability, Oct. 28, 1862.
William H. Tindall, Co. B; died at Murfreesboro', of wounds.
George W. Taylor, Co. B; trans. to Vet. Res. Corps.
Jonathan S. Tindall, Co. B; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
George Turpin, Co. B; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
George Upton, Co. B; died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., May 23, 1862.
Geo. W. Van Valkenberg, Co. B; died at Annapolis, Md., Feb. 5, 1863.
James M. Van Camp, Co. B; disch. by order, Jan. 31, 1863.
Tracy Vaughn; trans. to 16th Mich. Inf., Sept. 20, 1861.
Jasher Williams, Co. B; died of disease at Bardstown, Ky., March 22, 1862.
John C. Weller, Co. B; disch. for disability, Aug. 10, 1862.
John Welch, Co. B; disch. for disability, April 17, 1863.
Washington Whitney, Co. B; disch. by order, May 29, 1865.
William A. Wheeler, Co. B; was in battle of Stone River; trans. to Vet. Res. Corps; disch. in 1864.
Andrew Bair, Co. C; disch. for disability, Dec. 9, 1861.
Hubbard F. Buffum, Co. D; disch. for disability, June 28, 1862.

Henry Burleson, Co. D.
David G. Burleson, Co. D; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Samuel A. Clark, Co. D; died of disease, April 1, 1862.
Jesse J. Christy, Co. D; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
John W. Coe, Co. D; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
George Chandler, Co. C; disch. for disability, Feb. 13, 1862.
Henry C. Cady, Co. C; trans. to Medical Department, April 1, 1862.
Jehiel Driggs, Co. D; disch. for disability, May 19, 1862.
A. M. Dusenberry, Co. D; died of disease, Feb. 16, 1862.
Oliver Evarts, Co. D; died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., March 28, 1863.
Lyman Evans, Co. D; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Charles W. Eggleston, Co. D; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
James Ensign, Co. A; missing in action at Chickamauga, Sept. 11, 1863.
William H. Edwards, Co. D; disch. for disability, Aug. 14, 1862.
George W. Griffin, Co. D; disch. for disability, March 6, 1863.
Anson T. Gilbert, Co. D; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
John George, Co. D; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
John A. Gary, Co. C; died of wounds at Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 7, 1864.
John Henigan, Co. D; died of disease, March 28, 1862.
Richard M. Hines, Co. D; died of disease, Jan. 25, 1862.
John Henderson, Co. D; disch. for disability, June 10, 1862.
Daniel W. Holbrook, Co. A; disch. for disability, Oct. 28, 1863.
Harry N. Hamilton, Co. D; disch. for disability, Dec. 4, 1863.
Charles Hamilton, Co. D; trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, Feb. 1, 1864.
William L. Hoxie, Co. D; died in action at Davis' Cross-Roads, Ga., Sept. 11, 1863.
Charles D. Hamner, Co. D; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Wellington Henderson, Co. D; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Henry E. Hallrewer, Co. D; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Jacob E. Kenbarger, Co. D; disch. by order, May 29, 1865.
Wm. H. T. Kellum, Co. D; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Melvin J. Lyon, Co. D; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Samuel W. Loring, Co. D; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Charles W. Leigh, Co. A; disch. by order.
Gordon Lynch, Co. C; disch. for minority, Nov. 6, 1861.
Thomas McLaughlin, Co. D; disch. for disability, Oct. 30, 1862.
Jerome Milliman, Co. D; disch. for disability.
William H. Melville, Co. C; trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, March 15, 1864.
Harmon Otto, Co. D; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Henry Patten, Co. C; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
John W. Purdy, Co. D; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Charles E. Purdy, Co. D; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Jacob Peeler, Co. D; trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, Dec. 10, 1863.
John W. Quayle, Co. D; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Clarkson Robinson, Co. D; disch. for disability, Oct. 30, 1862.
George L. Smith, Co. D; disch. for disability, Feb. 20, 1862.
Stephen Shippy, Co. D; died of disease, Feb. 8, 1862.
Daniel A. Shippy, Co. D; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
David R. Smith, Co. D; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Homer C. Smith, Co. D; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Joseph Tubbs, Co. D; discharged for disability, June 20, 1862.
William Tice, Co. D; disch. for disability, Feb. 28, 1863.
Charles A. Wilber, Co. D; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Wallace Wilber, Co. D; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Ephraim Warden, Co. D; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
John H. Alsdorf, Co, H; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Mathew Adams, Co. H; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Solomon B. Alsdorf, Co. H; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
William Black, Co. H; died of disease, Feb. 19, 1862.
Franklin Bennett, Co. H; died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 25, 1862.
George Blair, Co. H; disch, for disability, May 14, 1862.
Eugene Barton, Co. H; disch. by civil authority, Sept. 27, 1861.
William Burroughs, Co. H; disch, for disability, July, 1863.
William Brown, Co. H; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Alfred G. Brown, Co. H; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
John Bennett, Co. H; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.

Stephen Burleson, Co. H; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Chester Bates, Co. H; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Alphonzo Bush, Co. H; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
William Chamberlain, Co. H; died in action at Stone River, Tenn., Dec. 31, 1861.
George W. Carleton, Co. H; died of disease, May 12, 1862.
Henry Crull, Co. H; died of disease, Feb. 9, 1862.
Hiram Cusic, Co. H; died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., Aug. 10, 1863.
Aretus Corwin, Co. H; disch. for disability, June 26, 1862.
Horace Crull, Co. H; disch. for disability, April 9, 1862.
Richard Chamberlain, Co. H; disch. for disability, April 29, 1862.
Abel Coon, Co. H; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
William J. Dates, Co. H; died of disease, March 22, 1862.
Orlando Derry, Co. H; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Seth L. Dusenberry, Co. H; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Benj. Eastman, Co. H; died near Atlanta, Ga., of wounds, Aug. 7, 1864.
John Franklin, Co. H; disch. to enl. in regular service, Dec. 8, 1862.
William W. Fell, Co. H; disch. for disability, Jan. 26, 1864.
Edwin S. Franklin, Co. H; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
George Franklin, Co. H; disch. by order, Sept. 1, 1863.
Walter M. Graves, Co. H; died near at Atlanta, Ga., of wounds, Aug. 7, 1864.
William H. Gould, Co. H; died of disease, Feb. 2, 1862.
James H. Griffin, Co. H; died of disease, Jan. 28, 1862.
Chauncey B. Green, Co. H; died in action at Stone River, Dec. 31, 1863.
George W. Geyer, Co. H; died in action at Stone River, Dec. 31, 1863.
Edwin A. Green, Co. H: disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
George S. Griffin, Co. H; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
John Green, Co. H; disch. for disability, Sept. 16, 1861.
Stillman Hedge, Co. H; died of disease at Annapolis, Md.
Edwin Higgins, Co. H; disch. for disability.
Solomon Haynes, Co. H; disch. for disability, Nov. 9, 1863.
Albert Hewes, Co. H; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
James M. Harris, Co. H; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Albert E. Knappen, Co. H; died of disease at Louisville, Ky., May 16, 1862.
Edward S. Knappen, Co. H; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
John Kesler, Co. H; disch. to enl. in regular service, Dec. 8, 1862.
Anthony Leversoe, Co. H; died of disease at Bardstown, Ky., Feb. 10, 1862.
Marvin Malleson, Co. H; died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., Sept. 24, 1862.
Fay Mead, Co. H; died at Chattanooga, Tenn., of wounds, Jan. 27, 1864.
Robert Machin, Co. H; died at Chattanooga, Tenn., of wounds.
Wm. Harrison Mudge, Co. H; disch, for disability, Aug. 24, 1862.
James Martin, Co. H; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Newton Mitchell, Co. H; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
George S. McKnight, Co. H; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Dennis Myswick, Co. H; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
John E. Nichols, Co. H; disch. for disability, Aug. 9, 1862.
Warren H. Newburg, Co. H; died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., June 30, 1863.
William Portors, Co. H; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Samuel Phelps, Co. H; disch. for disability, June 23, 1862.
William P. Reynolds, Co. H; disch. at expiration of service, May 3, 1865.
Lorenzo D. Reynolds, Co. H; disch. for disability, March 14, 1863.
Irving A. Sheldon, Co. H; died of disease at Murfreesboro', Tenn., Jan. 18, 1863.
Franklin Stearns, Co. H; died of disease, March 10, 1863.
Edwin H. Seabury, Co. H; disch. for disability, July 7, 1864.
Anthony Stevenson, Co. H; died of disease at Bardstown, Ky., Feb. 10, 1862.
Abram Stowell, Co. H; trans. to Andrews' Battery.
Abram E. Stowell, Co. H; trans. to Battery F, 1st Lt. Art., Oct. 20, 1861.
Grove M. Tyler, Co. H; died of disease, March 10, 1862.
Charles O. Twist, Co. H; disch. for disability, June 28, 1861.
Alson A. Tifft, Co. H; disch. for disability, Nov. 21, 1863.
Andrew M. Turner, Co. H; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Edward A. Turner, Co. H; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Zibina G. Trim, Co. H; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Joseph Turner, Co. H; died of disease at White Pigeon, Dec. 7, 1861.
Harvey Vanderhoff, Co. H; died at Murfreesboro', Tenn., Feb. 4, 1863, of wounds.

Harvey E. Warren, Co. H; died of disease at Bardstown, Ky., Feb. 2, 1862.
Warren Wilcox, Co. H; died of disease at Bardstown, Ky., Jan. 15, 1861.
Wm. L. Wheeler, Co. H; died of disease at White Pigeon, Mich., Nov. 9, 1861.
Aaron O. Wood, Co. H; disch. for disability, May 25, 1862.
Charles Whitehead, Co. H; disch. for disability, June 26, 1862.
Samuel E. Warren, Co. H; disch. for disability, June 29, 1862.
Johnson Willson, Co. H; disch. for disability, Oct. 21, 1862.
Charles Webb, Co. H; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Charles Wilson, Co. H; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Stephen V. Warren, Co. H; trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, Sept. 1, 1863.

MEMBERS OF THE ELEVENTH INFANTRY (NEW ORGANIZATION) FROM BRANCH COUNTY.

Samuel A. Arnold, Co. A; died of disease at Chattanooga, Tenn., March 24, 1865.
Adam E. Akenhead, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Giles A. Bixler, Co. A; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Laurenberg B. Brown, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
David H. Brennan, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
John Babb, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Joseph A. Bowen, Co. B; must. out May 26, 1865.
George W. Burdick, Co. B; must. out Sept. 30, 1865.
Lafayette Barton, Co. B; must. out Sept. 30, 1865.
Obadiah Blass, Co. F; died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., April 1, 1865.
Henry E. Burnside, Co. F; must. out Sept. 14, 1865.
Joseph B. Badger, Co. F; must. out May 16, 1865.
Alvah J. Belote, Co. I; must. out Sept. 14, 1865.
Israel L. Bullock, Co. I; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Edwin Bundy, Co. I; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Benj. F. Barber, Co. I; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Herman Crawford, Co. B; died of disease at Chattanooga, Tenn., April 17, 1865.
Fred B. Cutler, Co. B; died of disease at Jackson, Mich., May 24, 1865.
Augustus F. Clark, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Charles N. Carpenter, Co. A; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Frank Cockley, Co. F; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Jonas C. Cheney, Co. F; must out Sept. 16, 1865.
William L. Craft, Co. I; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
James A. Corey, Co. I; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Obadiah Davis, Co. F; died of disease at Cincinnati, Ohio, July 8, 1865.
Manly Dunham, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Harvey Dubois, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Michael Dunn, Co. D; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Henry C. David, Co. I; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Charles Davis, Co. F; must. out Aug. 29, 1865.
Charles W. Eggleston, Co. F; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
William H. Francis, Co. F; must. out May 18, 1865.
Joseph Failing, Co. B; died of disease at Chattanooga, Tenn., April 24, 1865.
Francis Graham, Co. A; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Charles Greenman, Co. F; died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., April 12, 1865.
Thomas Gunthrop, Co. F; must. out Sept. 14, 1865.
John A. Gregg, Co. F; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Augustus Gorham, Co. I; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Sherebriah Hayward, Co. B; died of disease at Jackson, Mich., May 24, 1865.
Norman F. Henry, Co. B; died of disease at Chattanooga, May 1, 1865.
Anthony K. Hower, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Elmer E. Hibbard, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
John S. Houston, Co. F; died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., April 4, 1865.
Edward A. Houghtaling, Co. F; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Francis M. Hadley, Co. F; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
James Harrington, Co. E; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Alonzo Howe, Co. I; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
George D. Harding, Co. I; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
James W. Harris, Co. K; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Harlow M. Holcomb, Co. K; must. out July 26, 1865.
Joseph Jenkins, Co. F; died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., June 6, 1865.
Jacob E. Kenbarger, Co. D; disch, by order, June 20, 1865.
Daniel Keeler, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.

Norris Kellan, Co. F; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Benj. P. Lyons, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Joel Loomis, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Eber Loomis, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Charles Lewis, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Charles H. Lindsley, Co. I; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
John E. Mills, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Lester Miller, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Joseph L. Milligan, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Walter Marshall, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Zenas Niles, Co. B; died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., April 8, 1865.
Gilbert S. Norton, Co. I; must. out Sept. 25, 1865.
Wm. H. Needham, Co. I; must. out Oct. 14, 1865.
Byron Rustine, Co. I; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Hiram Rustine, Co. I; must. out Sept. 30, 1865.
Horace J. Robinson, Co. I; died of disease at Chattanooga, Tenn., May 11, 1865.
Emmons Russell, Co. C; died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., May 30, 1865.
Albert Richmond, Co. C; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Jerome Ralph, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Charles H. Robinson, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Solomon W. Robinson, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Lucien E. Rowe, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Orlando H. Richardson, Co. B; died of disease at Chattanooga, May 1, 1865.
William A. Sweetland, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
John H. Stockwell, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
David A. Steel, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
George W. Sexton, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
James N. Sorter, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Andrew Sorter, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Paul Shiffler, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Charles Stuart, Co. C; must. out July 12, 1865.
William Studley, Co. C; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Andrew Sitters, Co. C; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Joseph H. Shippy, Co. C; must. out Sept. 30, 1865.
John Smith, Co. E; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
George E. Sherman, Co. I; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
John G. Skinner, Co. I; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Zebedee Swan, Co. I; must. out Sept. 28, 1865.
George Turpin, Co. I; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Martin Vanderhoff, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Kilborn Voorhees, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Jacob A. Vanorys, Co. H; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Abraham Vancuran, Co. H; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Daniel Wolf, Co. B; died of disease at Cleveland, Ohio, May 29, 1865.
Almon L. Wright, Co. B; died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., June 27, 1865.
W. Whitney, Co. B; must. out June 16, 1865.
Henry W. Waterbury, Co. B; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Henry C. Williams, Co. B; must. out Aug. 1, 1865.
Wilson Wyland, Co. C; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
J. W. Walls, Co. E; must. out May 15, 1865.
Andrew E. Wilbur, Co. F; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Calvin C. Weaver, Co. F; must. out Aug. 12, 1865.
Amos Whitman, Co. I; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Storrs Wilbur, Co. I; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
John Weaver, Co. I; must. out Aug. 7, 1865.
William H. Weller, Co. I; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.
Martin H. Williams, Co. I; must. out Sept. 16, 1865.

The Fifteenth Michigan Infantry, raised at Monroe and containing 54 men from Branch county, left camp in March, 1862, for the western campaigns, participated at Pittsburg Landing in April, 1862; at Corinth; in the siege of Vicksburg; was in Sherman's Atlanta campaign, and also in the march to the sea and through the Carolinas; was discharged at Detroit, Sept. 1, 1865.

MEMBERS OF THE FIFTEENTH INFANTRY FROM BRANCH COUNTY.

Rufus Kibbee, surgeon; enl. April 9, 1862; res. Oct. 3, 1862.
Benjamin Archer, Co. A; died in action at Shiloh, Tenn., April 6, 1862.
Chauncey Ames, Co. F; must. out Aug. 13, 1865.
John Brower, Co. A; disch. Sept. 8, 1862.
Lewis F. Bassett, Co. A; died near Atlanta, Ga., June 17, 1865.
Abner R. Beebe, Co. A; disch. by order, July 10, 1865.
Henry Ballard, Co. B; must. out Aug. 13.
Oscar Bloss, Co. E; disch. by order, Sept. 11, 1865.
Daniel S. Burdick, Co. H; must. out Aug. 13, 1865.
Jacob Beam, Co. K; must. out Aug. 13, 1865.
George Babcock, Co. K; must. out Aug. 13, 1865.
George W. Clark, Co. A; disch. by order, Aug. 5, 1865.
Martin Cass. Co. G; must. out Aug. 13, 1865.
Horace E. Dalton, Co. A; disch. by order, Nov. 18, 1865.
George W. Fenton, Co. A; disch, for disability, June 14, 1862.
Samuel Fry, Co. A; disch. by order, Oct. 18, 1863.
Edwin J. Fields, Co. A; must. out Aug. 13, 1865.
David Fox, Co. K; must out. Aug. 13, 1865.
Samuel A. Grice, Co. H; disch. by order, May 31, 1865.
Miner S. Hoyt, Co. A; died of disease at Corinth, Miss., May 25, 1862.
Lewis W. Hilton, Co. H; must. out Aug. 13, 1865.
James Holliday, Co. K; must. out Aug. 13, 1865.
Henry Hudson, Co. C; must. out Aug. 13, 1865.
Watslip Kahout, Co. H; must. out Aug. 13, 1865.
Wm. H. Lamberton, Co. H; must. out Aug. 13, 1865.
Wesley Morse, Co. A; disch. for disability, Nov. 26, 1862.
Charles McClure, Co. A; disch. to re-enl. in Vet. Res. Corps, Feb. 18, 1864.
Wilson McClure, Co. A; must. out Aug. 13, 1865.
Simon Mathews, Co. H; must. out Aug. 13, 1865.
Edgar Osburn, Co. K; must. out Aug. 13, 1865.
David Perrin, Co. I; must. out Aug. 13, 1865.
Charles Richey, Co. I; must. out Aug. 13, 1865.
David Rich, Co. K; must. out Aug. 13, 1865.
Nelson Richardson, Co. A; disch. for disability, Feb. 28, 1863.
Elijah Ransome, Co. H; must. out Aug. 13, 1865.
David Shook, Co. A; disch. for disability, March 4, 1863.
Edwin J. Start, Co. A; died of disease at Shiloh, Tenn., June 13, 1862.
Edward Sawdey, Co. C; died of disease at Camp Denison, Ohio, March 8, 1865.
Charles Sheldon, Co. G; must. out Aug. 13, 1865.
Amos Stokes, Co. H; must. out Aug. 13, 1865.
Sylvester E. Spencer, Co. H; must. out Aug. 13, 1865.
Henry J. Smith, Co. K; must. out Aug. 13, 1865.
John W. Stafford, Co. K; must. out Aug. 13, 1865.
Thomas Shalon, Co. K; disch. for disability, June 25, 18—.
James Thornton, Co. H; must. out Aug. 13, 1865.
Jacob H. Terry, Co. K; must. out Aug. 13, 1865.
Charles Thompson, Co. K; must. out Aug. 13, 1865.
John Watson, Co. A; died of disease near Camp Stevenson, Ala., Dec. 15, 1863.
Isaac Walburn, Co. A; must. out Aug. 13, 1865.
Thomas C. Winters, Co. A; disch. for disability, Nov. 7, 1862.
Joseph Woods, Co. B; must. out Aug. 13, 1865.
Niles Whipple, Co. K; must. out Aug. 13, 1865.
John Warfield, Co. K; disch. by order, May 30, 1865.
Charles Wilkinson, Co. K; disch. for disability, June 5, 1865.
George S. Warner, Co. K; must. out Aug. 13, 1865.

The Sixteenth Michigan Infantry, which contained a small number of men from Branch, was in the Virginia campaigns, its most important engagements being Malvern Hill, second Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, the Wilderness and siege of Petersburg. Was disbanded at Jackson, Mich., July 25, 1865.

MEMBERS OF THE SIXTEENTH INFANTRY FROM BRANCH COUNTY.

Earl M. Aikin, Co. E; died of disease in the field in Virginia, June 14, 1865.
Levi Beecher, Co. E; must. out July 8, 1865.
George W. Catlin, Co. C; died of disease near Sharpsburg, Va., Oct. 26, 1862.
John W. Croft, Co. I; disch. by order June 16, 1865.
William Dillon, Co. A; must. out July 8, 1865.
Leonard Dean, Co. E; must. out July 8, 1865.
Levi Dicey, Co. E; must. out July 8, 1865.
Evelin Earl, Co. E; must. out July 8, 1865.
John C. Geedy, Co. E; must. out July 8, 1865.
Benj. F. Hanford, Co. C; must. out July 8, 1865.
Adam Hower, Co. G; must. out July 8, 1865.
Robert Herot, Co. G; must. out July 8, 1865.
Abram Mosier, Co. C.
Alonzo Meyers, Co. C; died of disease at Davis hosp., N. Y., May 21, 1865.
Jesse Mann, Co. H; must. out July 8, 1865.
James H. Nye, Co. G; must. out July 8, 1865.
Lawrence M. Nye, Co. H; must. out July 8, 1865.
Joseph Rounge, Co. G; disch. by order, June 13, 1865.
Joseph Webb, Co. C; must. out July 8, 1865.
John H. Warren, Co. F; must. out July 8, 1865.
Silliman Woodard, Co. F; died of disease at City Point, Va., April 21, 1865.

The Seventeenth Michigan Infantry, which was the first regiment to leave the state in response to the president's call for "three hundred thousand more" in July, 1862, left Detroit in August, 1862, for Washington. Participated at South Mountain and Antietam; in March, 1863, was sent west to Kentucky; was on duty in the Mississippi valley until March, 1864, when it joined Grant's army in Virginia, and engaged in the Wilderness battles, at Spottsylvania, and the siege and final assault on Petersburg. Took part in the grand review and was mustered out at Washington June 3, 1865.

MEMBERS OF THE SEVENTEENTH INFANTRY FROM BRANCH COUNTY.

Henry B. Androus, Coldwater, capt., Co. C; enl. June 17, 1862; captured at Spottsylvania, Va., May 12, 1864; escaped, Jan. 6, 1865; must. out with regt., June 3, 1865.
Charles A. Edmonds, Quincy; pro. to capt., Co. H, June 17, 1862, from 1st lieut., Bat. A., 1st Lt. Art., May 28, 1861; wounded in action at South Mountain, Sept. 14, 1862; honorably disch. for wounds, Jan. 16, 1863.
Benjamin F. Clark, Quincy; 2d lieut., Co. I; enl. June 17, 1862; wounded in battle of South Mountain, Sept. 14, 1862; honorably disch. for wounds, Jan. 16, 1863.
Daniel Holway, Coldwater; 2d lieut., Co. C; enl. Feb. 24, 1863; pro. to 1st lieut., Sept. 19, 1863; pro. to capt., Jan. 6, 1865; bvt.-maj., April 2, 1865; must. out with reg., June 3, 1865.
Josiah Billingsby, Coldwater; 2d lieut.; enl. July 4, 1863; pro. to 1st lieut., Oct. 19, 1863; killed in a skirmish near Knoxville, Tenn., Nov. 20, 1863.
Joseph Bailey, Co. C; died in action at Spottsylvania, Va., May 12, 1864.
Charles Barber, Co. H; must. out June 3, 1865.
John Cory, Co. H; must. out June 3, 1865.
Charles R. Cory, Co. H; must. out June 3, 1865.
Lyman L. Colby, Co. H; must. out June 3, 1865.
Jesse D. Critchfield, Co. H; disch. for disability, Feb. 4, 1863.
Richard C. Chamberlain, Co. C; disch. for disability, Jan. 5, 1863.
Burr Clark, Co. C; must. out by order, June 17, 1865.
George M. Dalley, Co. H; died in action at Spottsylvania, Va., May 12, 1864.
John F. Evans, Co. G; died of disease at Washington, D. C., Feb. 22, 1863.
Milo Greenfield, Co. C; must. out June 3, 1865.
Frisbie Hutchinson, Co. C; disch. by order, June 10, 1865.
James Heller, Co. H; died in action at South Mountain, Md., Sept. 14, 1862.
Andrew J. Hawse, Co. H; disch. for disability, Dec. 29, 1862.
Samuel Harmon, Co. H; disch. for disability, Feb. 6, 1863.
Daniel Heller, Co. H; must. out June 3, 1865.
Moses E. Laughlin, Co. H; taken prisoner in action at Knoxville, Tenn.; died at Andersonville, Aug. 17, 1864.
William Hillman, Co. H; missing in action at Knoxville, Tenn., Nov. 29, 1863.
Leonard E. Minor, Co. C; died Dec. 26, 1862, of wounds, at Antietam.

Alfred Milnes, Co. C; disch. for disability, June 3, 1865.
Henry McNall, Co. A; disch. for disability, March 4, 1865.
James K. P. Meddaugh, Co. H; disch. by order, June 5, 1865.
John Nepass, Co. H; must. out June 3, 1865.
George Otis, Co. H; disch. for disability, Feb. 4, 1863.
John Petch, Co. C; died in action at Spottsylvania, May 12, 1864.
David S. Piatt, Co. C; died of disease at Frederickville, Md., Dec. 12, 1862.
Charles F. Potter, Co. H; must. out June 3, 1865.
David Rapp, Co. C; must. out June 3, 1865.
Charles Rapp, Co. C; dishonorably disch. by order, July 15, 1865.
Andrew P. Smith, Co. E; died at Andersonville, Ga.
William Sprague, Co. G; trans. to 2d Mich. Inf.
Henry E. Sisson, Co. H; must. out June 3, 1865.
Alfred J. Teachout, Co. C; disch. for disability, Jan. 1, 1863.
Julius M. Tompkins, Co. C; died in action at Spottsylvania, Va., May 12, 1864.
Anson M. Vicory, Co. C; disch. by order, Feb. 23, 1863.
Wallace Weller, Co. C; trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, Feb. 15, 1864.
Charles Weller, Co. C; must. out June 3, 1865.
Paris C. Whiting, Co. C; must. out June 3, 1865.
William S. Wood, Co. C; must. out June 3, 1865.
George Whitten, Co. C; trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, May 15, 1864.
Garrett C. Whitesides, Co. H; trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, Feb. 15, 1864.
Aaron V. Waterbury, Co. H; killed by explosion of steamer "Sultana," on Mississippi River, April 28, 1865.
Ellis W. Yates, Co. B; died of disease at Camp Nelson, Ky., March 30, 1864.

The Nineteenth Regiment of Infantry, raised in summer of 1862, is of special interest to Branch county. Companies C and H were entirely from Branch county, besides fifty or sixty men scattered through the other companies. The commanding officer was Colonel Henry C. Gilbert, of Coldwater, who died from wounds received in action. The regiment left for the front in September, 1862, was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland; was captured in the desperate battle at Franklin, in March, 1863; regiment was reorganized at Camp Chase, Ohio, and was again in the field by June, 1863; in 1864 started on the Georgia campaign with Sherman, took part in the siege and capture of Atlanta, and thence marched to the sea; it engaged in the Carolina campaign until the surrender of Johnston, and was mustered out at Washington June 10, 1865.

MEMBERS OF THE NINETEENTH INFANTRY FROM BRANCH COUNTY.

Henry C. Gilbert, Coldwater; col.; enl. Aug. 8, 1862; died at Chattanooga, May 24, 1864, of wounds received in action at Resaca, Ga., May 15, 1864.
Isaac Coggeshall, Coldwater; chaplain; enl. Aug. 5, 1862; res. Sept. 6, 1863.
Hamlet B. Adams, Coldwater; 1st lieut. and adjt.; enl. Aug. 14, 1862; pro. to capt., May 1, 1863; must. out July 5, 1865.
Charles P. Lincoln, Coldwater; capt., Co. C; enl. July 28, 1862; res. April 26, 1864.
George H. White, Coldwater; capt., Co. H; enl. July 28, 1862.
Smith W. Fisk, Coldwater; 1st lieut.; enl. July 28, 1862; res. Jan. 31, 1863.
Lucius M. Wing, Coldwater; 2d lieut.; enl. July 28, 1862; pro. to 1st lieut., May 1, 1863; q.-m., May 25, 1864; must. out June 10, 1865, with regt.
Timothy G. Turner, Coldwater; 1st lieut. and q.-m.; enl. Nov. 18, 1862; res. May 25, 1864.
James A. Shoecraft, Coldwater; 2d lieut.; enl. July 28, 1862; 1st lieut., May 1, 1863; wounded at Thompson's Station, Tenn., March 5, 1863; res. Jan. 11, 1864.
Lucius Phetteplace, Coldwater; 2d lieut.; enl. May 1, 1863; capt., Oct. 28, 1863; must. out June 10, 1865, with regt.
William M. Norris, Coldwater; 2d lieut.; enl. Dec. 1, 1863; capt., Oct. 28, 1864; res. Nov. 4, 1864.
Lucien B. Barnhart, Union; 2d lieut.; enl. Jan. 23, 1864; 1st lieut., Oct. 28, 1864; capt., Jan. 11, 1865; must. out June 10, 1865, with regt.
William L. Tyler, Batavia; 1st lieut.; enl. Oct. 28, 1864; capt., Jan. 15, 1865; must. out June 10, 1865, with regt.
George A. Russell, Girard; 1st lieut., Co. C.; enl. Oct. 28, 1864; capt., May 8, 1865; must.

out June 10, with regt.; in all the battles in which the regiment took part, Thompson's Station, Atlanta, Savannah, Bentonville, etc.

Joseph M. Alexander, Coldwater; 2d lieut.; enl. May 25, 1864; 1st lieut. and adjt., June, 1865; must. out June 10, 1865, with regt.

John J. Morsman; 2d lieut.; must. out June 10, 1865, with regt.

Hamilton S. Miles; 2d lieut.; must. out June 10, 1865, with regt.

Henry Butler; 2d lieut.; must. out June 10, 1865, with regt.

Company C.

Asa Alexander, disch. for disability, July 30, 1863.

Henry Austin, died of disease at Danville, Ky., Jan. 5, 1863.

Alonzo Berry, died of disease at Nicholasville, Ky., Dec. 27, 1862.

Chauncey L. Brown, died of disease at Lexington, Ky., Feb. 9, 1863.

Franklin M. Barnes, must. out June 10, 1865.

Samuel Bates, must. out June 10, 1865.

George W. Brown, must. out June 10, 1865.

Henry Butler, must out June 10, 1865.

Alfred Beddell, must. out June 10, 1865.

Harris A. Burke, must. out July 5, 1865.

J. C. L. Baughman, disch. for disability, May 13, 1865.

William H. Bryan, disch. for disability, May 9, 1865.

Jacob Doff Bary, disch. for disability, May 7, 1863.

Aaron Buffum, disch. for wounds, July 27, 1863.

Charles W. Bray, trans. to 10th Mich. Inf.

John Corey, trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, May 1, 1864.

Hebides Culver, trans. to Vet. Res. Corps.

Arthur B. Chevois, disch. for disability, May 13, 1865.

Samuel Colsin, must. out May 20, 1865.

Don A. Cole, must. out June 10, 1865.

Thomas Colan, must. out June 10, 1865.

Charles H. Demorest, must. out June 10, 1865.

John Demorest, died of disease at Camp Chase, Ohio, May 9, 1863.

Charles S. Davis, disch. for disability, Jan. 5, 1863.

Benj. V. Draper, disch. for disability, April 10, 1863.

Joseph R. Dickinson, disch. for disability, May 22, 1863.

Thomas J. Evans, must. out June 10, 1865.

William Finch, must. out June 10, 1865.

E. R. French, disch. for disability, Oct. 24, 1863.

William H. Fonda, trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, April 10; disch. July 15, 1865.

Giles G. Gordon, disch. for disability, July 8, 1864.

Erastus R. Green, died in action at Thompson's Station, Tenn., March 5, 1863.

Orson Gage, must. out June 10, 1865.

Stephen Gilbert, must. out June 10, 1865.

Stephen L. Hawley, must. out June 10, 1865.

Henry Halleck, must. out June 10, 1865.

Julius Herriff, must. out May 27, 1865.

Freeman Havens, trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, April 26, 1864.

Amos L. Hervey, died at Columbia, Tenn., March 8, 1863, of wounds.

Edward Hewitt, must. out June 8, 1865.

Geo. W. Hewitt, disch. for disability, May 11, 1863.

George W. Jackson, must. out June 10, 1865.

David Johns, disch. for disability, Dec. 10, 1862.

Hiram G. June, died at Nashville, Tenn., March 10, 1863, of wounds.

Charles Kirk, died of disease at Chattanooga, Tenn., Jan. 30, 1865.

Augustus Lord, must. out June 10, 1865.

Charles Lindsey, disch. for disability, Oct. 13, 1863.

Thomas Munyon, died of disease at Gravel Point, Ohio, Oct. 5, 1862.

George Miller, must. out June 10, 1865.

Hamilton S. Miles, must. out June 10, 1865.

George J. F. Miller, must. out June 10, 1865.

Daniel J. Massey, must. out June 10, 1865.

Erasmus R. Moore, disch. for disability, Aug. 6, 1864.

Noble N. Marks, trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, Nov. 1, 1863.

John Phineas, died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., March 12, 1863.

Joseph Polite, disch. for wounds, Aug. 19, 1863.

Erastus W. Page, died of wounds, July 20, 1864.

William L. Parker, died of wounds at Resaca, Ga., May 25, 1864.

Charles J. Pope, trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, March 15, 1864; disch. July 5, 1865.

Eleazur Post, must. out June 10, 1865.

John Post, disch. Nov., 1863.

Andrew Pender, must. out June 10, 1865.

Philip Pitcher, must. out June 10, 1865.

Leander Stevens, must. out June 10, 1865.

Ora B. Stevens, must. out June 10, 1865.

George D. Sinclair, died of disease at Atlanta, Ga., July 18, 1864.

Calvin D. Strong, died of disease at Coldwater, Mich., Sept. 5, 1864.

Mark H. Smith, died of disease at Danville, Ky., Jan. 10, 1863.

Ery W. Taylor, disch. for wounds.

George Tottingham, died at Thompson's Station, Tenn., March 5, 1863, of wounds.

Newell W. Thomas, must. out June 10, 1865.

Edward H. Tullman, must. out June 10, 1865.

Cyrus J. Titus, must. out June 10, 1865.

Daniel S. Vanblarcom, must. out June 10, 1865.

Martin Vanblarcom, must. out June 10, 1865.
George W. Whitehead, must. out June 30, 1865.
Edward C. Wilcox, must. out June 10, 1865.
Jedediah Wilcox, must. out June 10, 1865.
Charles H. West, died at Resaca, Ga., May 16, 1864, of wounds.
George W. Worden, died July 20, 1864.
Benjamin Wilcox, disch. for disability, Feb. 1, 1863.
Robert Williams, trans. to 10th Mich. Inf.
Sergt. Whaley, died of disease at Nicholasville, Ky., Jan. 10, 1863.
John Zwener, must. out June 10, 1865.
John B. Van Orman, disch. for disability, May 6, 1863.
William R. Van Orman, disch. for disability, June 17, 1863.

Company H.

Walter J. Allen, died of disease at Camp Chase, Ohio, March, 1863.
Heman Batterson, died in action at Thompson's Station, Tenn., March 5, 1863.
Elisha J. Brown, must. out June 10, 1865.
Delos Bates, must. out June 10, 1865.
James H. Baker, disch. for disability, March, 1863.
Francis F. Carle, disch. for disability, Feb. 4, 1863.
Frank Cirn, disch. for disability, July 6, 1863.
Alanson Curtis, disch. for disability, Sept. 4, 1863.
D. V. B. Cushman, must. out June 10, 1865.
Calvin Cummings, must. out June 10, 1865.
Edward B. Cook, must out June 10, 1865.
Alfred Cheney, must. out June 10, 1865.
Henry R. Canfield, disch. for promotion, Nov. 1, 1864.
Charles S. Davis, disch. for disability, Jan 5, 1863.
William Denue, died in action at Thompson's Station, Tenn., March 5, 1863.
Alonzo Dickerson, trans. to Vet. Res. Corps.
Amos Darwin, must. out June 10, 1865.
William Ellis, must. out June 10, 1865.
Jonathan Edwards, died of disease at Annapolis, Md., April 12, 1863.
Jefferson J. Eastman, must. out June 10, 1865.
Martin Elliott, disch. for disability May 16, 1863.
Francis Fuller, disch for disability, July 13, 1863.
Benjamin Fuller. died of disease at Chattanooga, Tenn., July 2, 1864.
Jesse W. Fetterly, died of disease at Jeffersonville. Oct. 8, 1864.
John E. Fetterly, must. out June 10, 1865.
Joseph A. Fetterly, must. out June 10, 1865.
George W. Fetterly, must. out June 10, 1865.
Terrence T. Goodwin, disch. for promotion, Dec. 2, 1863.
William F. Gillett, must. out June 10, 1865.
James E. Gibbs, must. out June 10, 1865.
William Green, must. out June 10, 1865.
Timothy Hurley, disch. for disability, Aug. 8, 1864.
Philo P. Henderson, trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, Dec. 15, 1863.
Barnard Hawley, must. out June 10, 1865.
Charles F. Housman, must. out June 3, 1865.
Henry Harmen, must. out June 15, 1865.
L. O. Halsted, died in action at Thompson's Station, of wounds, March 5, 1863.
Charles Jordan, must. out June 10, 1865.
William A. Jordan, must. out June 10, 1865.
Charles Kirk, died of disease at Chattanooga, Tenn., Jan. 30, 1865.
Harrison H. Kendig, must. out June 10, 1865.
Robert Kelso, must. out June 10, 1865.
Reuben Lyter, must. out June 10, 1865.
Wilson S. Lylly, must. out June 10, 1865.
Harlan P. Lawrence, disch. for disability, January, 1863.
Marion R. Morritt, disch, for disability, July 7, 1863.
Edward V. Monroe, must. out June 10, 1865.
Horatio A. Moody, must. out June 10, 1865.
John J. Morseman, must. out June 10, 1865.
Thomas Mathews, died of disease at Danville, Ky., Nov. 24, 1862.
Joseph Morgan, trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, Nov. 1, 1863.
E. N. Nulendy, died of disease at Annapolis, Md., March, 1863.
Enoch Olney, disch. for disability, Oct. 4, 1864.
Thomas E. Pierce, must. out June 26, 1865.
Nelson C. Peckham, must. out June 10, 1865.
John Paul, must. out June 10, 1865.
Mannoah Roshon, must. out June 10, 1865.
Harrison Rockafellow, must. out June 10, 1865.
McKenzie Sumner, disch. for promotion, Dec. 2, 1863.
Henry Sanford, Sr., must. out June 10, 1865.
Henry Sanford, Jr., must. out June 10, 1865.
Francis Sanford, must. out June 10, 1865.
Thomas G. Sumner, must. out June 10, 1865.
Samuel S. Smith, disch. for disability, Nov., 1862.
Luke Stellings, disch. for disability, Oct. 26, 1865.
Robert Stewart, must. out June 10, 1865.
Melville W. Simmons, must. out June 10, 1865.
George W. Shay, must. out June 10, 1865.
Stephen Taylor, died of disease at Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 20, 1864.
Q. H. Thompson, disch. for disability, July 7, 1863.
Marcus L. Thornton, must. out June 10, 1865.
Peter Thornton, must. out June 10, 1865.
Alvah Vanderhoof, must. out June 10, 1865.
David Vanderhoof, must. out June 10, 1865.
Daniel S. Warren, died of disease at Knoxville, Tenn., Aug. 25, 1863.

William Wilson, died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., March, 1863.
David G. Williams, disch. for disability, May 15, 1863.
W. N. Willard, disch. for disability, June 3, 1863.
Martello W. Wells, died of disease at Camp Denison, Ohio, Nov. 25, 1862.
George M. White, must. out June 10, 1865.
John R. Winsley, must. out June 10, 1865.
Lewis C. Waldron, must. out June 10, 1865.
William Broukey, Co. I; must. out June 10, 1865.
Herman Boughton, Co. G; died of disease at Annapolis, Md., April 13, 1863.
Chauncey L. Brown, Co. G; died of disease at Lexington, Ky., Feb. 9, 1863.
George Benedict, N. C. S., died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., March 5, 1863.
Jeremiah Brink, Co. G; must. out June 10, 1865.
Jabez Carlisle, Co. E; trans. to 10th Mich. Inf.
Joseph Coalcliff, Co. G; died of disease at Annapolis, Md., April 12, 1863.
Homer Carter, Co. G; disch. for disability, July 7, 1863.
Jacob Ecthleman, Co. E; trans. to 10th Mich. Inf.
Carlton Gates, Co. G; disch. Jan. 5, 1863.
John Hunter, Co. I; must. out May 23, 1865.
Jacob Kreiger, Co. I; must. out June 15, 1865.
Henry Kratz, Co. I; must. out May 10, 1865.
August Kreiger, Co. I; must. out June 10, 1865.
William P. Kidney, Co. I; must. out June 10, 1865.
Michael Le Graff, Co. I; must. out June 10, 1865.
William Lindley, Co. G; died of disease at Lexington, Ky., Feb. 19, 1863.
Fletcher E. Marsh, N. C. S., disch. for promotion.
Addison P. Moore, Co. G; must. out June 10, 1865.
Elijah Miers, Co. I; must. out June 10, 1865.
Daniel A. Miller, Co. I; disch. for disability, Nov. 2, 1864.
Robert Miller, Co. I; must. out June 10, 1865.
August Morlock, Co. I; must. out June 10, 1865.
Charles McCane, Co. I; must. out June 10, 1865.
Fred. Meyer, Co. I; must. out June 10, 1865.
Edward Newton, Co. I; must. out June 10, 1865.
Nicholas Nester, Co. I; must. out July 13, 1865.
George W. Olds, Co. D; died of disease in Nashville, Tenn.
Henry A. Potter, Co. G; disch. for disability.
William L. Parker, Co. G.
Richmond F. Parker, mus.; was in battles of Resaca, Cassville, Dallas, Atlanta, Kenesaw, Averysboro', and Bentonville; disch. June 10, 1865.
Hiram F. Penland, Co. I; disch. June 30, 1865.
Charles E. Reynolds, Co. I; must. out June 10, 1865.
Charles Ripley, Co. I; must. out June 10, 1865.
Edward P. Shaw, Co. G; died of disease at Cincinnati, O., Oct. 8, 1862.
Abner Sherwin, Co. G; died of disease at Lexington, Ky., Feb. 19, 1863.
Benjamin K. Secor, Co. G; died of disease, April, 1863.
William W. Swain, Co. E; trans. to 10th Mich. Inf.
Albert Stimson, Co. I; must. out June 10, 1865.
Fred. Seifer, Co. I; must. out June 10, 1865.
Andrew Slanker, Co. I; must. out June 10, 1865.
Ansel Stone, Co. I; must. out July 2, 1865.
Michael Welch, Co. I; must. out June 10, 1865.
William Watson, Co. G; disch. for disability, Jan. 19, 1863.
Albert A. Webster, Co. I; dwisch. for disability, Jan. 19, 1863.

The Twenty-eighth Infantry was organized in 1864, reached Kentucky in October of that year, participated in the defense of Nashville against Hood; early in 1865 was ordered east, and finally was sent into the Carolinas, where it co-operated in the campaign against Johnston until his surrender. It continued on duty in the Carolinas until June 5, 1866, when it was mustered out. The officers and privates from Branch county were:

David B. Purinton, Coldwater, capt.; enl. Aug. 15, 1864; bvt.-maj., March 13, 1865; must. out June 5, 1866, with regiment.
George W. Bowker, Coldwater, 1st lieut.; enl. Aug. 15, 1864; capt. April 11, 1865; must. out June 5, 1866, with regiment.
Frank Plogert, Coldwater, 1st lieut.; enl. Aug. 15, 1864; capt., Sept. 12, 1865; must. out June 5, 1866, with regiment.
Chauncey H. De Clute, Coldwater, 2d lieut.; enl. Aug. 15, 1864; 1st lieut., March 28, 1865; must. out June 5, 1866, with regiment.

Harlow E. McCarey, Coldwater, 2d lieut.; enl. Aug. 15, 1864; 1st lieut., May 8, 1865; must. out June 5, 1865, with regiment.

Company C.

Reville M. Amidon, must. out by order, May 31, 1865.
Monroe C. Beadle, must. out Sept. 7, 1865.
Dewitt C. Beadle, must. out by order, May 26, 1865.
Henry Bearis, must. out Sept. 13, 1865.
John Bearis, must. out June 5, 1866.
James A. Bellinger, must. out June 5, 1866.
Wellington Bennett, must. out June 5, 1866.
Charles E. Bogart, must. out June 5, 1866.
George Brightman, must. out June 7, 1865.
James A. Barns, must. out June 5, 1866.
Andrew Bair, must. out June 12, 1865.
David C. Coffman, died of disease at Jeffersonville, Ind., Feb. 2, 1865.
Eugene Canwright, must. out May 18, 1865.
Cortlandt Chapman, must. out June 5, 1866.
George Chapman, must. out June 5, 1866.
James Chapman, must. out June 5, 1866.
Robert Chivers, must. out June 5, 1866.
Wilson B. Chronester, must. out June 1, 1865.
Frank Curn, must. out May 2, 1865.
Horace A. Crall, must. out May 2, 1865.
Reuben Cole, must. out May 18, 1865.
Orlando Cornell, must. out June 5, 1866.
Perry C. Clermont, disch. for disability, Aug. 31, 1865.
Charles D. Cluff, must. out June 8, 1865.
Mortimer F. Davis, must. out May 17, 1865.
Oscar I. Davis, disch. for disability, June 4, 1866.
Peter G. Dehn, must. out June 5, 1866.
George H. Devens, must. out June 7, 1865.
Philip Funde, must. out June 9, 1866.
Henry Firth, must. out June 5, 1866.
Oscar W. Frazer, must. out June 9, 1866.
John Gamby, disch. at end of service, Feb. 6, 1866.
Judson B. Gibbs, must. out May 3, 1866.
William Goodenough, must. out by order, May 10, 1866.
Reuben I. Grove, must. out June 5, 1866.
C. W. Kimmelmenn, must. out Feb. 26, 1866.
Wm. Hungerford, must. out by order, April 25, 1866.
Erastus Jennings, must. out June 26, 1865.
Jacob Keller, must. out May 18, 1865.
Stephen Ladon, died of disease at Nashville, Jan. 20, 1865.
Alex. Lamond, must. out June 5, 1866.
Charles Lattin, must. out June 5, 1866.
John Libhart, must. out July 26, 1865.
Samuel H. Lossing, must. out June 5, 1866.
Alonzo McLaughlin, must. out June 5, 1866.
Charles W. Morse, must. out June 5, 1866.
John C. Meegan, died of disease at Shelby, N. C., June 23, 1865.
Alfred A. Norton, must. out June 5, 1866.
Wilson Norton, must. out July 26, 1865.
Willis S. Norton, must. out July 26, 1865.
Daniel Pratt, must. out by order, May 17, 1865.
Charles E. Perry, must. out by order, May 26, 1865.
John H. Rainon, must. out by order, May 3, 1866.
Daniel S. Robinson, must. out June 8, 1865.
James M. Rawson, must. out June 27, 1865.
Hezekiah Sweet, disch. for disability, July 14, 1865.
James E. Sprung, must. out June 5, 1866.
Peter Sheeler, must. out June 5, 1866.
James A. Shelden, must. out Sept. 12, 1865.
William I. Smalley, must out. June 5, 1866.
Charles A. Woodward, must. out May 12, 1865.
Henry B. Winslow, must. out June 2, 1865.
George W. Wiley, must. out May 27, 1865.
Hosea Bushnell, Co. K;; must. out July 1, 1865.
Wm. G. Chamberlain, Co. I; must. out July 1, 1865.
George Dustine, Co. I; died of disease at Louisville, Ky., Nov. 10, 1864.
Dustin Dockham, Co. K; must. out July 1, 1865.
James Eggleston, Co. K; must. out May, 1865.
William W. Fenno, Co. H; must. out June 5, 1866.
Russell Humiston, Co. I; died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., June 9, 1865.
John W. Hudson, Co. I; must. out June 5, 1866.
Franklin Hamlin, Co. I; must. out June 8, 1865.
Israel Hammond, Co. I; must. out May 26, 1865.
John S. Lovejoy, Co. K; must. out May, 1863.
Luther Gray, Co. I; must. out June 19, 1865.
Abram A. Smith, Co. I; must. out May 31, 1865.
Marshall M. Smith, Co. I; disch. for disability, Dec. 21, 1865.
William W. Stratton, Co. I; disch. for disability, March 7, 1866.
Marcellus K. Whetsel, Co. I; disch. for disability, June 5, 1865.

The First Michigan Sharpshooters was not completely organized until August, 1863; the regiment was on guard duty at Chicago till March, 1864, then joined the Army of the Potomac, participating in the Wilderness battles, Spottsylvania, and in the series of operations about Petersburg, this regi-

ment being the first to enter that city when evacuated; the regiment was disbanded at Jackson, Mich., August 7, 1865.

MEMBERS OF THE FIRST SHARPSHOOTERS FROM BRANCH COUNTY.

Henry S. Fish, Coldwater, 1st lieut., Hall's S. S.; enl. Aug. 19, 1864; trans. to 1st Mich. S. S.; must. out July 28, 1865.
Robert F. Bradley, Co. H; disch. for disability, Sept. 5, 1864.
James L. Burns, Co. H; must. out July 28, 1865.
Jeremiah Burcher, Co. H; died of disease in 1st Division hospital, June 13, 1865.
Alvin H. Barber, Co. H; died of disease in Chicago, Ill., Oct. 15, 1863.
Daniel H. Conklin, Co. H; must. out July 28, 1865.
Joseph H. Conklin, Co. H; must. out June 22, 1865.
Stephen H. Conklin, Co. H; must. out July 28, 1865.
Reuben Cornell, Co. H; must. out July 28, 1865.
Henry Crag, Co. H; must. out July 28, 1865.
William H. Dupuy, Co. H; must. out July 28, 1865.
Charles Durfey, Co. H; died in Andersonville prison, Sept. 3, 1864.
William H. Durfey, Co. H; missing in action near Petersburg, Va., June 17, 1864.
Andrew J. Ellis, Co. H; must. out May 15, 1865.
Derrick Hauken, Co. H; must. out July 28, 1865.
Joshua C. Hedglen, Co. B; must. out Aug. 17, 1865.
George Haulterbrand, Co. H; died of disease in Chicago, Ill., June 3, 1864.
John Kelley, Co. H; missing in action near Petersburg, Va., June 17, 1864.
Hugh Kennedy, Co. H; must. out June 10, 1865.
Thomas McLaughlin, Co. —; disch. for disability, June, 1864.
Lewis Priest, Co. H; must. out July 17, 1865.
William Ross, Co. H; missing in action near Petersburg, Va., June 17, 1865.
John Rainbow, Co. H; must. out July 28, 1865.
George W. Sackett, Co. H; must. out July 1, 1865.
Jacob Sackett, Co. H; must. out July 28, 1865.
Benjamin F. Smith, Co. H; must. out July, 1865.
Henry Smith, Co. H; committed suicide while on guard, Sept. 5, 1863.
William H. Stebbins, Co. I; must. out June 1, 1865.
George Tanner, Co. C; must. out July 28, 1865.
Andrew West, Co. H; must. out July 28, 1865.

The Fourth Michigan Cavalry Regiment was mustered in at Detroit, August 29, 1862; was sent to Kentucky, where it fought Morgan; participated at Murfreesboro and other severe service in Tennessee; was with Sherman in his Georgia campaign, but after the capture of Atlanta returned to Tennessee in pursuit of Hood; was engaged in Tennessee and Alabama, taking part in the capture of Selma, and was at Macon, Georgia, when news of the surrender came; it was this cavalry regiment that had the honor of capturing Jefferson Davis.

MEMBERS OF THE FOURTH CAVALRY FROM BRANCH COUNTY.

Barber N. Sheldon, Quincy, capt.; enl. Aug. 13, 1862; maj., Aug. 23, 1863; wounded in action at Kingston, Ga., May 18, 1864; bvt. lieut.-col., March 13, 1865; must. out July 2, 1865.
Daniel Duesler, Quincy, 1st lieut.; enl. Aug. 13, 1862; capt., Feb. 1, 1863; hon. disch. for disability, June 27, 1863.
Julius M. Carter, Ovid, 2d lieut.; enl. Aug. 13, 1862; 1st lieut., Dec. 24, 1862; wounded in action at Kingston, Ga., May 18, 1864; capt., July 9, 1864; bvt. maj., March 13, 1865; hon. disch. for disability, May 17, 1865.
Henry D. Fields, Bronson, 2d lieut.; enl. Aug. 13, 1862; res. March 1, 1863.
Jeremiah Duesler, Coldwater, 2d lieut.; enl. Feb. 18, 1863; res. April 21, 1864.
Henry A. Potter, Ovid, 2d. lieut.; enl. Feb. 16, 1863; 1st lieut., March 31, 1863; capt., Aug. 1, 1864; must. out July 1, 1865, with regiment.
Alfred Purinton, Coldwater, 2d lieut.; enl. Aug. 1, 1864; 1st lieut., May 10, 1865; must. out July 1, 1865, with regiment.
Lorenzo J. Southwell, Ovid, 2d lieut.; enl.

Dec. 10, 1864; must. out July 1, 1865, with regiment.

Company G.

Benj. F. Archer, must. out July 1, 1865.
Wm. G. Beebe, disch. for disability.
Phineas Burkholder, disch. for disability.
Wm. Burdick, trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, Sept. 30, 1863.
Matthew N. Burdick, trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, May 15, 1864.
Lewis R. Bridge, disch. by order, July 6, 1865.
Mathew Brayton, died of disease at Murfreesboro, Tenn., June 24, 1863.
Milton Beesmer, died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., March 1, 1863.
Wm. H. Bradford, must. out July 1, 1863.
Wm. H. Burt, must. out July 1, 1863.
Wm. E. Bradley, disch. for disability, Dec. 22, 1862.
John Browers, disch. by order, June 19, 1865.
John Cavanaugh, disch. by order, July 14, 1865.
Martin Cass, disch. for disability, March 8, 1863.
Charles Carter, died of disease at Murfreesboro, Tenn., Feb. 8, 1863.
Ira L. Canfield, died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 25, 1862.
Henry Cusick, died of disease at Louisville, Ky., Feb. 7, 1864.
Wm. Casselman, trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, April 30, 1864.
Aaron M. Chase, trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, March 15, 1864.
Martin Cloonan, must. out July 1, 1865.
Jeremiah Craig, must. out July 1, 1865.
Winfield Day, died of disease at Quincy, Mich., May 20, 1863.
Wm. Dobson, died of disease at Bridgeport, Ala., Nov. 17, 1863.
Gamalia Dickinson, disch. for disability, Sept. 16, 1863.
John Daggett, disch. for disability, April 11, 1863.
Howard Gaffney, died of disease at Springfield, Ky., Nov. 5, 1865.
Edwin E. Hungerford, died of disease at Murfreesboro, Tenn., Feb. 17, 1863.
George W. Jones, died of disease at Murfreesboro, Tenn., June 8, 1863.
Warren Leland, disch. for disability, Jan. 12, 1865.
Whitfield Lampman, must. out July 1, 1865.
Charles M. Magden, died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., Jan 18,1863.
William H. Mayden, died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 21, 1864.
Francis Maguire, must. out July 1, 1865.
George Myres, must. out July 1, 1865.
John C. Nichols, must. out July 1, 1865.
Henry Norton, disch. for disability, Nov., 1862.
Joseph Odren, disch. by order.
James G. O'Brien, must. out July 1, 1865.
Joseph Perrin, must. out July 1, 1865.
Lewis Perrine, disch. for disability, May 4, 1863.
Elias H. Prout, died of disease at Murfreesboro, Tenn., Feb. 27, 1863.
William H. Prout, died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., March 10, 1863.
William H. Palmeter, must. out July 1, 1865.
Samuel Ruff, must. out July 1, 1865.
Cary Reed, must. out July 1, 1865.
Franklin Roundy, must. out July 1, 1865.
James Swarthout, died of disease at Murfreesboro, Tenn., Jan. 23, 1863.
Robert T. Smith, died of disease at Murfreesboro, Tenn., July 10, 1863.
John Skinner, disch. for disability, Feb. 6, 1863.
John A. Skinner, must. out July 1, 1865.
William Swarthout, must. out July 1, 1865.
John Sullivan, must. out July 1, 1865.
Philetus Siggins, must. out July 1, 1865.
Albert Stickney, disch. for disability, Feb. 16, 1863.
Elias H. Scales, disch. for disability, March 3, 1863.
William H. Thompson, disch. for disability, April 18, 1863.
William Trask, disch. for disability, Dec. 28, 1862.
George H. Trask, must. out July 1, 1865.
Jacob N. Trask, must. out July 1, 1865.
George W. Van Sickle, must. out July 1, 1865.
George Whaley, died of disease at Danville, Ky., Oct. 25, 1862.
William Wood, disch. for disability, May 5, 1863.
Elisha C. Williams, disch. for disability Feb. 3, 1863.
Oliver M. Wentworth, disch. for disability, March 27, 1863.
W. R. Wentworth, must. out July 1, 1865.
Henry Woodmaster, must. out July 1, 1865.
Daniel H. Bush, Co. A; trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, April 30, 1863.
Benona Burch, Co. I; died at Dallas, Ga., May 27, 1864, of wounds.
Ambrose Burleson, Co. I; died at Noonday Creek, Ga., June 20, 1864, of wounds.
John Bailey, Co. M; died in Andersonville prison, July 3, 1864.
Henry Cosier, Co. I; disch. for disability, June 8, 1863.
Zenas B. Cheney, N. C. S.; disch. by order, Nov. 16, 1863.
Aaron B. Fowell, Co. I; disch. for disability, Jan. 12, 1864.
Solomon Fosmith, Co. I; must. out July 1, 1865.
William Filkins, Co. K; must. out Aug. 15, 1865.

J. V. T. Gauthouse, Co. I; missing in action at Selma, Ala., April 2, 1865.
Henry S. Hewitt, Co. I; died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 19, 1862.
Charles W. Hartwell, Co. I; disch. by order, July 21, 1865.
Jerome B. Heth, Co. I; must. out July 1, 1865.
Martin Hecathorn, Co. I; must. out July 1, 1865.
Orlando Hawley, Co. I; died at Lavergne, Tenn., Dec. 29, 1862, of wounds.
James Ogden, Co. A; trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, April 22, 1864.
James Pope, Co. I; disch. for disability, Sept. 15, 1862.
Thomas Reeves, Co. K; died of disease at Nashville, April 23, 1864.
William Simpson, Co. I; must. out July 1, 1865.
Ira C. Stockwell, Co. C; must. out July 1, 1865.
Elbert Terril, Co. I; trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, May 1, 1864.
O. F. Underhill, Co. I; trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, July 1, 1863.
Pembroke Vandemark, Co. D; must. out Aug. 15, 1865.
John H. Williams, Co. I; disch. for disability, Feb. 15, 1865.
Edward H. Wood, Co. A; trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, Nov. 1, 1863.

The Fifth Michigan Cavalry Regiment, mustered in August 30, 1862, proceeded to Washington in December, and from that time to the close of hostilities was constantly in the most wearing service in the Virginias, during the latter part of the war being part of Sheridan's famous forces. The regiment was mustered out at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, June 22, 1865.

MEMBERS OF THE FIFTH MICHIGAN CAVALRY FROM BRANCH COUNTY.

Andrew D. Hall, Quincy, 2d lieut.; enl. Aug. 14, 1862; res. June 5, 1863.
Smith H. Hastings, Coldwater, 1st lieut.; enl. Aug. 14, 1862; capt., Jan. 10, 1863; wounded at Trevillian Station, Va., June 12, 1864; major, Aug. 9, 1864; lieut.-col., Nov. 10, 1864; col., Dec. 17, 1864; must. out June 22, 1865.
Madison N. Bibbins, Coldwater, 2d lieut.; enl. March 4, 1864; 1st lieut., Aug. 10, 1864; capt., Feb. 1, 1865; must. out June 22, 1865, with regiment.
Amos Bingham, Quincy, 2d lieut.; enl. Oct. 27, 1864; 1st lieut., Feb. 1, 1865; must. out June 22, 1865, with regiment.
William H. Hunt, Coldwater, 2d lieut. (as sergt.); must. out June 22, 1865, with regiment.
Henry M. Fox, Coldwater, 2d lieut. (as sergt.); must. out June 22, 1865, with regiment.

Company M.

William Andrews, must. out June 19, 1865.
John Adams, disch. by order, July 7, 1865.
William H. Black, died of disease at Washington, D. C., Aug. 13, 1864.
Levi Busley, missing in action at Richmond, Va., March 2, 1864.
Amos Bingham, disch. for promotion.
Thomas Bingham, disch. by order.
Henry Baines, must. out June 19, 1865.
Matthew B. Burger, disch. for disability, March 3, 1865.
Nathan C. Canfield, died of disease at Detroit, Dec. 3, 1862.
Charles C. Craft, killed by guerrillas in skirmish at Berryville, Va., Aug. 19, 1864.
Peleg Canner, disch. for disability, May 23, 1863.
Orrin D. Curtis, disch. by order, June 26, 1865.
Sylvester T. Chase, must. out June 19, 1865.
Parmenio Casey, must. out June 19, 1865.
Peter M. Dubendorf, trans. to 7th Mich. Cav.
Charles A. Ford, must. out June 19, 1865.
Henry M. Fox, must. out June 19, 1865.
James A. Furgeson, must. out June 19, 1865.
Isaiah Fox, killed in skirmish by guerrillas at Berryville, Va., Aug. 19, 1864.
John H. Gripman, died in Andersonville prison, April 8, 1864.
Charles H. Goodrich, trans. to 7th Mich. Cav.
Arnold Goodman, disch. for disability, May 15, 1865.
David Gibbins, must. out June 19, 1865.
Charles M. Hobbs, must. out June 19, 1865.
William H. Hunt, must. out June 19, 1865.
Seymour H. Hogle, disch. for disability, Feb. 28, 1863.
William H. Harkness, died of disease at Annapolis, Md., Aug. 2, 1863.
Fernando A. Jones, must. out June 19, 1865.
Stephen Keyser, disch. by order, Sept. 1, 1863.
Fluette King, trans. to 7th Mich. Cav.
Charles Little, died in prison at Richmond, Va., April 28, 1864.
Spencer Leigh, trans. to 7th Mich. Cav.
Zelotes Mather, died of disease at Frederick, Md., Aug. 19, 1863.
Calvin McCreery, died in action at Hawes' Shop, Va., May 28, 1864.
William Milliman, trans. to 7th Mich. Cav.
William Marshall, trans. to 7th Mich. Cav.

Jonas H. McGowan, disch. for disability, Dec. 4, 1862.
James Mills, must. out June 19, 1865.
John R. Morey, captured in Dahlgren's raid around Richmond, Va.; must. out June 19, 1865.
William Nivison, trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, March 31, 1864.
Robert B. Nivison, must. out June 19, 1865.
Nesbit J. Nevel, must. out June 19, 1865.
Edward S. Ogden, died in prison at Andersonville, Ga., Sept. 27, 1864.
Isaac C. Osburn, killed in skirmish by guerrillas at Berryville, Va., Aug. 19, 1864.
Samuel I. Osburn, disch. by order, May 27, 1865.
Ephraim Oviatt, must. out June 19, 1865.
John H. Pratt, must. out June 19, 1865.
Ezra Post, must. out June 19, 1865.
P. M. Reynolds, must. out June 19, 1865.
John A. Snyder, died in prison at Andersonville, Ga., Sept. 27, 1864.
Squire E. Skeels, killed in skirmish by guerrillas at Berryville, Va., Aug. 19, 1864.
Howard Simons, must. out July 24, 1865.
Wm. F. Teachout, disch. by order, Aug. 11, 1865.
Horace M. Tifft, missing in action at Richmond, Va.
Albert I. Tifft, must. out June 19, 1865.
Dexter B. Taylor, must. out June 19, 1865.
Charles Thompson, must. out June 19, 1865.
Orim Van Gilder, trans. to 7th Mich. Cav.
M. L. Vicory, killed in action at Smithfield, Va., Aug. 29, 1864.
Hiram Vaukying, disch. for disability, Jan. 15, 1864.
Wm. S. Van Gieson, disch. by order, July 5, 1865.
Samuel K. Vanderker, must. out July 13, 1865.
Francis M. Wright, died of disease at Baltimore, Md., Sept. 10, 1864.
Jarvis Watkins, died in action at Toledo Tavern, Va., May 6, 1864.
William H. Watkins, must. out June 19, 1865.
Vincent Watkins, must. out June 19, 1865.
George White, killed in skirmish by guerrillas at Berryville, Va., Aug. 19, 1864.
H. C. Worthington, killed in skirmish by guerrillas at Berryville, Va., Aug. 19, 1864.
Milo Beard, Co. I; trans. to 1st Mich. Cav.
James Cobb, Co. I; trans. to 7th Mich. Cav.
Edward Carr, Co. C; trans. to 7th Mich. Cav.
John Dennis, Co. G; trans. to 1st Mich. Cav.
Elisha Demorest, Co. I; trans. to 7th Mich. Cav.
Jasper Eldred, Co. I; trans. to 7th Mich. Cav.
Edward Fox, Co. G; trans. to 1st Mich. Cav.
Michael Kanouse, Co. C; trans. to 7th Mich. Cav.
Moses Kanouse, Co. C; trans. to 7th Mich. Cav.
Isaac Lake, Co. B; disch. by order, June 26, 1865.
Charles H. Osterhout, Co. K; trans. to 7th Mich. Cav.
Charles Prentiss, Co. G; trans. to 1st Mich. Cav.
James J. Pendill, Co. G; trans. to 1st Mich. Cav.
Lucius Stray, Co. G; trans. to 1st Mich Cav.
Minard O. Van Gilder, Co. L; trans. to 7th Mich. Cav.
Colbert Van Gieson, Co. L; trans. to 7th Mich. Cav.
George O. Van Gieson, Co. L; trans. to 7th Mich. Cav.

The Eighth Michigan Cavalry, which took the field in May, 1863, was for some months principally opposed to the Confederate leaders, Morgan and Wheeler, and in 1864 joined Sherman's Atlanta campaign; thence it returned to Tennessee in pursuit of Hood, participating at Franklin and Nashville; it was mustered out at Nashville, September 22, 1865.

OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS OF THE EIGHTH CAVALRY FROM BRANCH COUNTY.

Henry L. Sellick, Quincy, 2d lieut.; enl. Nov. 1, 1862; capt., Aug. 31, 1863; res. Oct. 27, 1864.
Elijah J. Devens, Coldwater, capt.; enl. Nov. 1, 1862; res. April 8, 1864.
Smedley Wilkinson, Quincy, 1st lieut.; enl. Nov. 1, 1862; res. Jan. 10, 1864.
David Noteman, Coldwater, 1st lieut.; enl. Nov. 1, 1862; res. June 21, 1864.
Walter Burritt, Coldwater, 2d lieut.; enl. Nov. 1, 1862; res. Jan. 4, 1864.
Charles O. Twist, Coldwater, 2d lieut.; enl. Aug. 31, 1863; res. Sept. 14, 1864.
Henry M. Burton, 2d lieut.; enl. May 2, 1864; res. May 17, 1865.
Horace Woodbridge, Coldwater, 2d lieut.; enl. Jan. 8, 1865; hon. disch. July 20, 1865, on consolidation with 11th Cav.
Norman L. Otis, Union City; chaplain; hon. disch. Sept. 22, 1865, with regiment.
Benjamin C. Barnes, Co. I; must. out Sept. 22, 1865.
George Bates, Co. C; must. out Sept. 22, 1865.

William Ball, Co. B; disch. by order, June 18, 1865.
Jacob Baker, Co. H; must out Oct. 9, 1865.
Francis Beedle, Co. M; died of disease at Annapolis, Md., May 3, 1864.
Cassius Burritt, Co. M; must. out Sept. 19, 1865.
Hiram Blackmer, Co. B; trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, May 1, 1864.
William Beecher, Co. B; trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, Jan. 15, 1864.
William Buffington, Co. I; must. out Sept. 22, 1865.
Walter Besemer, Co. B; disch. by order, July 20, 1865.
David W. Burring, Co. M; must. out Sept. 29, 1865.
Aretus Corwin, Co. M; disch. for disability, March 20, 1865.
Jeremiah Coleman, Co. B; died of disease at Knoxville, Tenn., Nov. 27, 1863.
John H. Chivois, Co. E; must. out Sept. 22, 1865.
James C. Church, Co. B; trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, Jan. 15, 1864.
Benj. F. Clark, Co. B; must. out June 10, 1865.
Stephen Combs, Co. B; disch. June 12, 1865.
Alexander Fisk, Co. B; died of disease, 1864.
George Franklin, Co. M; trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, Nov. 1, 1863.
William Filson, Co. B; died of disease at Camp Nelson, Ky., Dec. 16, 1863.
Lewis R. Foot, Co. B; killed by explosion of steamer on Mississippi River, April 15, 1865.
William J. Foster, Co. C; must. out Sept. 22, 1865.
George Garboll, Co. C; must. out Sept. 22, 1865.
Francis Hadley, Co. M; disch. for disability, April 28, 1864.
Enos B. Hadley, Co. M; must. out May 22, 1865.
Julius Houghtaling, Co. L; must. out Sept. 22, 1865.
Horace W. Hunt, Co. B; must. out May 15, 1865.
Peter W. Hughes, Co. M; disch. for disability.
Vernon C. Howe, Co. M; disch. for disability, Nov. 24, 1864.
Julius Henry, Co. C; must. out Sept. 22, 1865.
Edwin J. Hall, Co. B; disch. by order, Sept. 7, 1865.
Francis Jerome, Co. B; missing in raid on Macon, Ga., Aug. 3, 1864.
James Kubeck, Co. C; must. out Sept. 22, 1865.
Jonathan Lossing, Co. B; died in Andersonville prison, March 29, 1864.
Thomas J. Lossing, Co. B; must. out June 13, 1865.
Erastus J. Lewis, Co. C; must. out Sept. 22, 1865.
John M. Landon, Co. C; must. out Oct. 10, 1865.
James Lowrer, Co. M; disch. for disability, March 20, 1865.
William McKinney, Co. C; must. out Sept. 22, 1865.
Edward C. McDaniels, Co. B; disch. June 6, 1865.
David Musselman, Co. H; must. out Sept. 22, 1865.
Reuben T. Mathews, Co. M.
Anson W. Merritt, Co. E; must. out Sept. 22, 1865.
Henry C. Norton, Co. B; killed by explosion of steamer, April 15, 1865.
Mortimer J. Nash, Co. C; must. out Sept. 22, 1865.
William Newman, Co. C; must. out Sept. 22, 1865.
Edgar T. Ormsby, Co. M; disch. for disability, Oct. 13, 1864.
John B. Parkinson, Co. B; disch. for disability, Oct. 19, 1863.
Henry N. Perrine, Co. B.
William Powers, Co. C; must. out Sept. 22, 1865.
Eliphalet Page, Co. B; disch. by order Sept. 7, 1865.
J. A. Rustine, Co. B; died of disease at Knoxville, Tenn., March 21, 1864.
John W. Rogers, Co. B; must. out June 10, 1865.
Elias Rose, Co. B; must. out Sept. 22, 1865.
L. B. Robbins, Co. B; must. out June 10, 1865.
John Smith, Co. B; died of disease at Lexington, Ky., April 10, 1864.
George Smith, Co. B; missing in action at Henryville, Tenn., Nov. 23, 1863.
Samuel Spencer, Co. B; died of disease at Camp Nelson, Ky., Dec. 16, 1863.
Charles Sutherland, Co. C; must. out Sept. 22, 1865.
Erwin Splitstone, Co. A; died of disease at Pulaski, Tenn., Nov. 18, 1864.
Charles G. Seabury, Co. B; must. out June 15, 1865.
Cyrus H. Spafford, Co. I; must. out Sept. 22, 1865.
Calvin E. Seamons, Co. D; must. out Sept. 22, 1865.
David A. Varnum, Co. B; must. out Sept. 22, 1865.
Ammon O. Wood, Co. M; died at Andersonville prison, Sept. 8, 1864.
Oliver M. Wentworth, Co. C; trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, Aug., 1864.
John Weller, Co. B; trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, May 1, 1864.
Charles Wright, Co. B; trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, Jan. 15, 1864.
Sanford E. Wood, Co. B; discharged.

Manly C. White, Co. B; disch. by order, June 15, 1865.
Lewis C. Wheeler, Co. C; must. out Sept. 22, 1865.
O. H. Woodworth, Co. M; disch. for promotion, Sept. 13, 1864.
Seth Whitten, Co. M; disch. for disability, Feb. 18, 1865.
Jonathan Wilson, Co. M; disch. for disability, April 2, 1865.
William J. Young, Co. C; must. out Sept. 22, 1865.
Charles A. Zimmerman, Co. G; must. out Oct. 10, 1865.

The Ninth Michigan Cavalry was organized with rendezvous at Coldwater and left there for Kentucky in May, 1863; it was in service in Kentucky and Tennessee and north of the Ohio against Morgan and co-operating with the main movements of the Union forces, and in July, 1864, joined Sherman's army in the operations about Atlanta; after the fall of the city it marched to the sea, and was in numerous battles and skirmishes in the Carolinas until the conclusion of the war. It was mustered out July 21, 1865.

MEMBERS OF THE NINTH CAVALRY FROM BRANCH COUNTY.

Jonas H. McGowan, Coldwater, capt.; enl. Nov. 3, 1862; res. Jan. 27, 1864.
Otis H. Gillam, Coldwater, capt.; enl. Nov. 3, 1862; res. March 11, 1864.
Smith W. Fisk, Coldwater, 1st lieut.; enl. Nov. 3, 1862; wounded in a skirmish with Morgan's raiders at Salineville, O., July 26, 1863; disch. for disability Nov. 5, 1863.
John D. Smails, California, 2d lieut.; enl. Dec. 29, 1863; 1st lieut., March 15, 1864; must. out July 21, 1865, with regiment.
Charles H. Smith, Girard, 2d lieut.; enl. March 27, 1863; 1st lieut., Jan. 17, 1864; capt., Aug. 19, 1865; must. out July 21, 1865, with regiment.
Benton T. Russell, Coldwater, 2d lieut.; enl. as sergt., Feb. 27, 1865; must. out July 21, 1865, with regiment.
George W. Howard, 2d lieut.; enl. as sergt., Oct. 26, 1864; must. out July 21, 1865, with regiment.
Alfred K. Miller, Coldwater, 2d lieut.; enl. as sergt., June 27, 1865; must. out July 21, 1865, with regiment.
Milton Allen, Co. C; died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., Aug. 2, 1864.
Samuel Allman, Co. B; must. out June 12, 1865.
Alexander Black, Co. K.; killed in action at Stone Mountain, Ga., Oct. 2, 1864.
James Ballard, Co. D; died of disease at Camp Nelson, Ky., April 23, 1864.
Lyman Bates, Co. K; died of disease at Knoxville, Tenn., Jan. 19, 1864.
Ashael L. Baird, Co. G; disch. for disability, Feb. 23, 1864.
George R. Bennett, Co. K; disch. for disability, March 16, 1864.
Warren E. Bills, Co. B; must. out July 21, 1865.
Benjamin F. Belden, Co. A; must. out July 21, 1865.
George W. Bartram, Co. K; must. out June 21, 1865.
Warren A. Blye, Co. I; disch. for disability, June 1, 1865.
Stanley Bidwell, Co. I; disch. for disability, June 1, 1865.
George Blair, Co. I; must. out June 12, 1865.
Zebulon Birch, Co. I; must. out July 21, 1865.
Peter B. Case, Co. I; died of disease at Camp Nelson, Ky., May 14, 1864.
Rice W. Chapman, Co. I; must. out July 21, 1865.
Louis Creer, Co. I; must. out July 21, 1865.
Collins W. Cutter, Co. L; must. out Aug. 14, 1865.
Charles Degalier, Co. B; died of disease at Knoxville, Tenn., March 13, 1864.
Benjamin Duck, Co. L; trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, Jan. 15.
Wm. R. Dunn, Co. I; missing in action, March 12, 1865.
Charles Drake, Co. I; disch. for disability, April, 1863.
Jeremiah Depue, Co. I; must. out July 21, 1865.
Alphonzo Dawson, Co. K; must. out July 21, 1865.
John Dawson, Co. K; must. out July 21, 1865.
William Danton, Co. H; must. out July 21, 1865.
Albert E. Evans, Co. K; must. out June 7, 1865.
Daniel Francis, Co. H; must. out July 21, 1865.
David Franklin, Co. G.
Philip Fonda, Co. I; disch. for disability, Feb. 29, 1864.
John Fisher, Co. I; disch. for disability, Dec. 17, 1863.
James Fitzgerald, N. C. S.; must. out July 21, 1865.

Jackson Gillam, Co. I; died of disease at Knoxville, Tenn., Dec., 1863.
Henry G. Goode, Co. B; must. out July 21, 1865.
Hiram Hulse, Co. I; died of disease at Knoxville, Tenn., Dec., 1863.
William A. Harkins, Co. B; must. out July 21, 1865.
Eugene Hillard, Co. E; must. out July 21, 1865.
John A. Holmes, Co. E; must. out July 21, 1865.
George F. Hartzell, Co. L; must. out July 21, 1865.
William S. Hopkins, Co. K; must. out July 21, 1865.
John Hiverly, Co. K; must. out July 21, 1865.
Francis M. Jones, Co. B; must. out July 21, 1865.
Ira G. Kinne, Co. I; must. out July 21, 1865.
Oliver Lapier, Co. B; must. out July 21, 1865.
Francis La Bonte, Co. F; must. out July 21, 1865.
Robert G. Long, Co. I; must. out July 21, 1865.
Martin Lockwood, Co. I; must. out July 21, 1865.
Fred Miller, Co. D; disch. for disability.
John T. Merriss, Co. I; disch. for disability.
E. D. McGowan, Co. I; disch. by order, July 25, 1864.
George Moon, Co. I; missing in action.
John E. McCarty, Co. L; must. out July 21, 1865.
Alfred K. Miller, Co. L; must. out July 21, 1865.
John McPhail, Co. E; must. out May 29, 1865.
William H. Moore, Co. E; must. out June 12, 1865.
Elias Michael, Co. I; must. out July 21, 1865.
David F. Misener, Co. I; must. out July 5, 1865.
Nelson R. Nye, Co. E; must. out July 21, 1865.
David Nelson, Co. I; must. out July 21, 1865.
Henry I. Ogden, Co. I; must. out June 12, 1865.
Isaac W. Pierce, Co. E; must. out June 12, 1865.
William H. Rose, Co. I; must. out July 21, 1865.
Joseph Robinson, Co. E; must. out June 12, 1865.
Henry Rynder, Co. F; trans. to 11th Mich. Batt., May 8, 1863.
William Rowley, Co. F; trans. to 11th Mich. Batt., May 8, 1863.
W. W. Scott, Co. K; died of disease at Covington, Ky., July 26, 1864.
James Stubbs, Co. L; died in Andersonville prison, July 15, 1864.
Thomas Sudboro, Co. L; trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, Jan. 15, 1864.
Erastus L. Smith, Co. I; trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, Jan. 15, 1864.
Samuel S. Smith, Co. K; trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, Jan. 15, 1864.
Jacob Shirnerly, Co. I; trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, Jan. 15, 1864.
John A. Smith, Co. A; must. out July 21, 1865.
George Selleck, Co. E; must. out July 21, 1865.
Luther W. Smith, Co. K; must. out July 21, 1865.
Jephtha Simpson, Co. K; must. out July 21, 1865.
James D. Studley, Co. I; must. out July 21, 1865.
Jesse Taft, Co. I; must. out July 21, 1865.
Hazel Tyrrell, Co. K; must. out July 21, 1865.
George W. Thayer, Co. H; died of disease at Knoxville, Tenn., July 6, 1864.
George W. Thayer, Co. B; must. out July 21, 1865.
John Uhlm, Co. I; must. out July 21, 1865.
F. Vanderhoof, Co. G; died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., April, 1864.
John H. Wells, Co. F; disch. for disability, June 14, 1865.
Benjamin Wilkins, Co. K; must. out July 21, 1865.
Benj. F. Wilder, Co. I; must. out Jan. 23, 1865.
Aug. Wentworth, Co. I; must. out July 21, 1865.

The Eleventh Regiment of Michigan Cavalry left Kalamazoo, its rendezvous, in December, 1863, served six months' scout duty in Kentucky, and in September, 1864, was sent into Virginia, and saw the rest of its service in Virginia, east Tennessee and North Carolina, being part of the command of General Stoneman. This regiment was consolidated with the Eighth Michigan Calvary in July, 1865, and was mustered out as members of the latter in the following September.

MEMBERS OF THE ELEVENTH CAVALRY FROM BRANCH COUNTY.

Abram E. Stowell, Coldwater, 1st lieut.; enl. Aug. 1, 1863; res. Nov. 14, 1865.
Martin S. Perkins, Coldwater, 2d lieut.; enl. Aug. 1, 1863; res. June 18, 1865.
Edwin R. Bovee, Co. M.
William E. Burtless, Co. M.
Edward Bates, Co. M; trans. to 8th Mich. Cav.
David Blass, Co. M; trans. to 8th Mich. Cav.
Charles S. Dunn, Co. A; disch. by order, July 12, 1865.
William J. Foster, Co. M; trans. to 8th Mich. Cav.
Thomas B. Fulcher, Co. M; disch. by order, Aug. 10, 1865.
Otto Gould, Co. M; disch. by order, July 12, 1865.
George Garboll, Co. M; trans. to 8th Mich. Cav.
John W. Hulburt, Co. M; trans. to 8th Mich. Cav.
Thomas Howe, Co. M; disch. by order, Aug. 10, 1865.
Julius Henry, Co. M; trans. to 8th Mich. Cav.
James Kubeck, Co. M; trans. to 8th Mich. Cav.
George H. Kimball, Co. M; disch. by order, July 12, 1865.
James Loomis, Co. M; must. out Sept. 11, 1865.
Erastus J. Lewis, Co. M; trans. to 8th Mich. Cav.
John M. Landon, Co. M; trans. to 8th Mich. Cav.
James C. Mosher, Co. L; disch. for promotion.
Mortimer J. Nash, Co. M; trans. to 8th Mich. Cav.
William Newman, Co. M; trans. to 8th Mich. Cav.
William Powers, Co. M; trans. to 8th Mich. Cav.
Wesley Preston, Co. M; trans. to 8th Mich. Cav.
Charles Sutherland, Co. M; trans. to 8th Mich. Cav.
David Sidler, Co. M; trans. to 8th Mich. Cav.
H. C. Thompson, Co. M; must. out June 12, 1865.
Lewis C. Wheeler, Co. M; trans. to 8th Mich. Cav.
Oliver M. Wentworth, Co. M; trans. to 8th Mich. Cav.
William J. Young, Co. M; trans. to 8th Mich. Cav.
Charles Zimmerman, Co. A; trans. to 8th Mich. Cav.

Battery A, First Light Artillery, famed throughout Branch county as the "Loomis Battery," whose annual reunions are occasions attracting more than casual interest, the Loomis Battery Park with its memorial tablets and cannon being a conspicuous feature of the Coldwater public square, was organized soon after the commencement of the war in 1861. Its nucleus was an artillery company that had existed in the village of Coldwater for some time before the war. The enlistment at first was for three months, but it was soon announced that the battery would not be received except for a period of three years. Some returned to their homes, but the battery was soon recruited to full strength. Cyrus O. Loomis was elected captain, hence the popular name of the organization. The record of this battery is given on the large memorial tablet in the public square of Coldwater. Suffice it here to state that the battery saw its first action in West Virginia at Rich Mountain; was then transferred to the campaigns in Kentucky and Tennessee, its experience culminating in the fierce struggle at Chickamauga. The battery remained about Chattanooga until the close of the war, being mustered out July 28, 1865.

MEMBERS OF BATTERY A FROM BRANCH COUNTY.

Cyrus O. Loomis, Coldwater, capt.; enl. May 28, 1861; col., Oct. 8, 1862; bvt. brig.-gen., June 20, 1865; must. out July 29, 1865.
Otis H. Gillam, Coldwater, 1st lieut.; enl. May 28, 1861; res. March 8, 1862.
Roland Root, Coldwater, 2d lieut.; enl. May 28, 1861; 1st lieut., Oct. 6, 1861; res. Nov. 17, 1862.
Robert G. Chandler, Coldwater, 2d lieut.; enl. May 28, 1861; 1st lieut. Oct. 6, 1861; res. Nov. 24, 1862.
George W. Van Pelt, Coldwater, 2d lieut.;

enl. Oct. 6, 1861; 1st lieut., Nov. 24, 1862; killed in action at Chickamauga, Tenn., Sept. 19, 1863.
Almerick W. Wilbur, Quincy, 2d lieut.; enl. Nov. 24, 1862; 1st lieut., Sept. 21, 1863; capt., Sept. 5, 1864; must. out July 28, 1865, with battery.
John M. Tilton, Coldwater, 2d lieut.; enl. Sept. 21, 1863; 1st lieut., Sept. 6, 1864; res. March 6, 1865.
John W. Streeter, Union City, 2d lieut.; enl. Sept. 6, 1864; 1st lieut., May 25, 1865; must. out July 28, 1865, with battery.
William R. Peet, Coldwater, 2d lieut.; must. out July 28, 1865, with battery.
Hezekiah E. Burchard, disch. to enlist as vet., Feb. 11, 1864.
William H. Bush, disch. at end of service, May 31, 1864.
Robert J. Bradley, disch. for disability, March 25, 1863.
John Botemar, disch. at end of service, May 31, 1864.
Orrin A. Barber.
Admiral B. Burch, disch. at end of service, May 31, 1864.
Edward M. Brown, disch. at end of service, May 31, 1864.
Lafayette M. Burleson, disch. at end of service, May 31, 1864.
Levi Beard, must. out July 28, 1865.
Joseph Billingsly, died in rebel prison.
Aaron R. Burroughs, must. out July 28, 1865.
James B. Burtless, must. out July 28, 1865.
Peter Berdama, died of disease at Chattanooga, Tenn., June 26, 1864.
James Barnes, disch. at end of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Charles Barnes, must. out July 28, 1864.
Martin Buell, disch. at end of service, May 31, 1864.
Edgar H. Bargduff, must out July 28, 1865.
Thomas Baird, must. out July 28, 1865.
Jeremiah V. H. Cudner, must. out July 28, 1865.
William R. Card, disch. by order, May 22, 1865.
Edward P. Clark.
Augustus A. Cudner, must. out July 28, 1865.
Jesse Culver, must. out July 28, 1865.
Harvey Crawford, must. out July 28, 1865.
Contarini Crawford, must. out July 28, 1865.
Don P. Cushman, disch. at end of service, Sept. 20, 1864.
Wilbur B. Crawford, disch. by order, May 30, 1865.
Simon L. Culver, must. out July 28, 1865.
Asa B. Cornell, disch. at end of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Cornelius Claus, disch. at end of service, May 31, 1864.
Ransom Cory, must. out July 28, 1865.
Bradley Crippen, disch. at end of service, Oct. 29, 1864.
William J. Culp, must. out July 28, 1865.
Lester Carson, disch. for disability, May 16, 1863.
Wm. Dubendorf, disch. for disability, Oct. 21, 1862.
Sela R. Day, disch. at end of service, May 31, 1864.
John Dillon, died at Stone River, Tenn., Jan. 6, 1863, of wounds.
Daniel Demarest, died in Andersonville prison, June 17, 1864.
Edward F. Davis, must. out July 28, 1865.
Wm. H. Eldred, died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., Aug. 11, 1863.
Edward E. Ellis, must. out July 28, 1865.
Martin V. Elliott, must. out July 28, 1865.
George L. Freemyer, must. out July 28, 1865.
Bradley C. Farman, must. out July 28, 1865.
Samuel W. Finney, disch. for disability, May 22, 1865.
John Golden, disch. at end of service, May 31, 1864.
Marcus A. Gage, died at Stone River, Tenn., Jan. 13, 1863, of wounds.
Andrew Grosse, disch. at end of service, May 31, 1864.
Warren J. Gould, disch, at end of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Luman B. Gibbs, disch. at end of service, May 31, 1864.
Isaac Groesbeck, died in action at Chickamauga, Tenn., Sept. 19, 1863.
Archibald Grove, disch. at end of service, June 13, 1864.
John Gackler.
Andrew J. Hanna, disch. at end of service, May 31, 1864.
Thomas J. Harris, must. out July 28, 1865.
James Haynes, disch. at end of service, May 31, 1864.
James B. Haggerty, died of disease, Jan. 13, 1863.
John Heller, died at Champlin Hills, Ohio, Oct. 8, 1862, of wounds.
Sheldon Havens, disch. at end of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Charles E. Hastings, disch. March 31, 1863.
Joseph R. Harris, disch. at end of service, May 31, 1864.
Clinton A. Hutchinson, must. out July 28, 1865.
Wm. H. Haynes, died at Chattanooga, Tenn., May 21, 1864.
Alonzo C. Hayden, disch. at end of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Bruce G. Hawley, disch. at end of service, May 31, 1864.
Charles E. Judd, must. out July 28, 1865.
Henry H. Kellogg, disch. at end of service, May 31, 1864.
Martin Kelly, must. out July 28, 1865.
John W. Kennedy, must. out July 28, 1865.
Charles A. Lee, must. out July 28, 1865.

Stillman E. Lawrence, must. out July 28, 1865.
Francis J. Lewis, disch. for disability, April 9, 1863.
William Lynde, must. out July 28, 1865.
Abijah P. Lyke, must. out July 28, 1865.
Clark Miller, must. out July 28, 1865.
Jerome Mather.
Leander A. McCrea, disch. at end of service, May 31, 1864.
John A. Mosher, disch. at end of service, May 31, 1864.
John H. Munion, disch. at end of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Peter Montavon, must. out July 28, 1865.
James P. McCarty, died in action at Chickamauga, Tenn., Sept. 19, 1863.
John J. Martin, must. out July 28, 1865.
David C. Nichols, died at Stone River, Jan. 13, 1863, of wounds.
Jared Nichols.
Bernard O'Rourke, trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, May 15, 1864.
Silas Patten, disch. for disability, Dec. 13, 1865.
William Peet, must. out July 28, 1865.
Cornelius J. Patten, disch. at end of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
William J. Pattison, disch. for promotion.
William A. Post, must. out July 28, 1865.
Lewis C. Richardson, must. out July 28, 1865.
Robert Roulstone, must. out July 28, 1865.
Thomas A. Robinson, must. out July 28, 1865.
Henry M. Rapright, must. out July 28, 1865.
Linus H. Stevens, must. out July 28, 1865.
George W. Smith.
John W. Streeter.
Watson Spencer, disch. at end of service, May 31, 1864.
Myron H. Smith, disch. at end of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Samuel J. Smith, must. out July 28, 1865.
Charles F. Smith, must. out July 28, 1865.
Charles K. Stevens, must. out July 28, 1865.
Sylvanus Titus, disch. for disability, March 18, 1863.
Sylvester Taylor, must. out July 28, 1865.
Lucius M. Tousley, must. out July 28, 1865.
Asa G. Van Blarcom, disch. at end of service, Sept. 30, 1864.
Ira C. Van Aken, must. out July 28, 1865.
Henry Vosburg, must. out July 28, 1865.
Edward M. Vanderhoof, must. out July 28, 1865.
Henry Wells, disch. at end of service, May 31, 1864.
Alva H. Wilder, must. out July 28, 1865.
George W. Webb, must. out July 28, 1865.
William H. Webb, must. out July 28, 1865.
James A. West, must. out July 28, 1865.
Webster N. Wilbur, must. out July 28, 1865.
Henry Wheeler, disch. by order, June 9, 1805.
Lorenzo Winegard.

Battery D, or the Fourth Michigan Battery, also known as Church's Battery, to which Branch county furnished three-fourths of the members, was organized during the first months of the war, and proceeded to the scene of hostilities in Kentucky in December, 1861; it took part in the battle of Corinth, Stone River, and Chickamauga, and the campaigns centering about Nashville, Murfreesboro and Chattanooga, and also fought at Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge. It remained in Tennessee until July, 1865, and soon after was sent home and discharged.

MEMBERS OF BATTERY D FROM BRANCH COUNTY.

Josiah W. Church, Coldwater, 1st lieut.; enl. Sept. 1, 1861; capt., Aug. 2, 1862; major, March 14, 1864; res. March 14, 1864, for disability.
James M. Beadle, Union City, 2d lieut.; enl. Sept. 2, 1861; res. June 20, 1862.
Henry B. Corbin, Union City, 2d lieut.; enl. Sept. 10, 1861; 1st lieut., June 20, 1862; capt., March 23, 1864; must. out at end of service, Feb. 8, 1865.
Edward S. Wheat, Quincy, 1st lieut.; enl. June 20, 1862; must. out at end of service, Feb. 8, 1865.
Daniel W. Sawyer, Quincy, 2d lieut.; enl. Aug. 2, 1862; 1st lieut., March 23, 1864; must. out at end of service, Jan. 31, 1865.
Jesse B. Fuller, Coldwater, 2d lieut.; enl. Sept. 24, 1862; capt., Feb. 8, 1865; must. out Aug. 3, 1865, with battery.
Solomon E. Lawrence, Union City, 2d lieut.; enl. March 23, 1864; 1st lieut., Feb. 8, 1865. res. June 21, 1865.
Samuel A. Blodgett, 2d lieut.; enl. Feb. 8, 1865; 1st lieut., June 21, 1865; must. out Aug. 3, 1865, with battery.
George W. Annis, 2d lieut.; enl. Feb. 8, 1865; must. out Aug. 3, 1865, with battery.
Albert J. Baldwin, 2d lieut.; enl. June 21, 1865; must. out Aug. 3, 1865, with battery.
George Seymour, 1st lieut.; enl. Jan. 31, 1865; must. out Aug. 3, 1865, with battery.
Edward F. Allen, died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., April 25, 1865.
Leonard Austin, disch. for disability, May 27, 1862.
Myron Austin, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.

George E. Aiken, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Henry C. Adams, disch. for disability, May 27, 1862.
Benjamin F. Barber, disch. at end of service, Sept. 17, 1864.
William H. Beck, must. out at end of service, Sept. 17, 1864.
Harvey Barry, disch. for disability, Oct. 28, 1862.
William H. Buell, disch. at end of service, Sept. 17, 1864.
Sidney Buell, trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, April 30, 1864.
Charles Burnett, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Erastus Barber, died of disease at White Pigeon, Mich., Dec. 11, 1861.
Henry Barry, died of disease at Triune, Tenn., April 15, 1863.
Leander Burnett, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Jerry Baker, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Dewitt C. Beach, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Lafayette Bartlett, died of disease at Murfreesboro, Tenn., April 1, 1865.
Martin F. Brower, died of disease at St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 10, 1861.
Frank C. Beck, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Harvey Bills, disch. for disability, Aug. 1, 1862.
Albert J. Baldwin, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Ira B. Buell, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Manly Bucknell, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Chauncey H. Bailey, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Arthur E. Bartlett, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Henry J. Burton, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Aaron Bagley, Jr., must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Austin Burnett, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Henry Beem, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Charles W. Champney, trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, April 30, 1864.
John Chivois, disch. for disability, April 28, 1862.
John H. Chivois, disch. at end of service, Sept. 17, 1864.
William Colburn, disch. at end of service, Nov. 2, 1864.
Jeremiah A. Church, disch. for disability, July 9, 1863.
Robert Crawford, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
John C. Corbin, died of disease at Chattanooga, Tenn., Sept. 25, 1863.
Ira Crandall, disch. by order, June 30, 1865.
John A. Calhoun, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
William M. Corey, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Stephen W. Chapman, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
John Chard, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Gilbert D. Clute, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
George W. Chaffee, disch. Feb. 28, 1863.
Ansel J. Davis, disch. at end of service, Sept. 17, 1864.
Eber L. Dodge, disch. for disability, July 30, 1862.
Albert Durfee, disch. at end of service, Sept. 17, 1864.
George B. Davis, died of disease at Murfreesboro, Tenn., March 27, 1865.
Clinton Dewey, died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., March 19, 1864.
Marvin M. Denison, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
William J. Davis, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Lyman J. Dane, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Oscar N. Denison, disch. for disability, July 23, 1863.
Francis Fry, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Lewis Gardiner, died of disease at Gallatin, Tenn., Jan. 7, 1863.
George W. Gates, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Hiram T. Grant, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Judson Guernsey, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Benjamin Hess, disch. at end of service, Sept. 17, 1864.
Norman S. Hawes, disch. at end of service, Sept. 17, 1864.
Horace Hall, disch. for disability, April 25, 1863.
Ashael Hill, disch. for disability, Dec. 4, 1862.
Abner Hillman, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
John Henry, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Andrew J. Hawes, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Elias Hively, disch. for disability, July 11, 1862.
James M. Holiday, disch. at end of service, Sept. 17, 1864.
James A. Harding, disch. at end of service, Sept. 17, 1864.
Henry Harmon, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Henry Hecatharm, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Leonard Hulbert, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
George Haymaker, disch. at end of service, Sept. 17, 1864.
Frank Haymaker, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Levi B. Halsted, disch. for disability, April 28, 1862.
Wells Harrison, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Lewis E. Jacobs.
Henry J. Jones, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Nathaniel Jones, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Varney B. Jones, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Samuel Killmena.
Ansel Knowles, disch. for disability, Aug. 27, 1862.
Peter J. Kidney, died of disease at Monterey, Tenn., May 13, 1862.
Alonzo C. Kimball, disch. by order, June 17, 1865.
Josiah Kimball, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Samuel Kilburn, disch. at end of service, Sept. 17, 1864.
George W. Kilburn, died of disease at Corinth, Miss., June 23, 1862.
William H. Kellogg, trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, April 10, 1864.
Caleb H. Lincoln, died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 4, 1864.
Wm. H. Lincoln, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Cornelius D. Leech, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Riley Layhm, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.

Henry W. Lock, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
William Loucks, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Frank Lilley, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
James M. Lock, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
David W. Moore, disch. at end of service, Sept. 17, 1864.
Horace Maxon, disch. for disability, July 11, 1862.
Jesse L. Maxon, disch. for disability, May 13, 1862.
Jesse R. Mathews, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Byron L. Mitchell, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
George V. Meseroll, disch. at end of service, Sept. 17, 1864.
Estes McDonald, disch. at end of service, Sept. 17, 1864.
William A. Morley, disch. at end of service, Sept. 17, 1864.
John T. Morford, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
William H. Morford, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Cornelius J. Myers, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Marcellus Morrell, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
John W. Norton, disch. at end of service, Sept. 17, 1864.
Charles Norton, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Samuel H. Nichols, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Michael O'Rourke, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Milton Ormsby, disch.
Harvey L. Ormsby, died of disease at Paducah, Ky., July 2, 1862.
Edgar T. Ormsby.
Albert Olmstead, died of disease at Camp Halleck, Tenn., April 27, 1862.
Porter Olmstead, disch. at end of service, Sept. 17, 1864.
Patrick O'Rourke, disch. by order, May 24, 1865.
George Olmstead, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Laman Olmstead.
Jarvis Petch, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Albert Pinkerton, must. out by order, June 30, 1865.
Henry A. Peters, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Joseph Polite, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
William Roblyer, disch. at end of service, Sept. 17, 1864.
Angusa Rhode, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Mason F. Rowe, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Charles M. Richards, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Henry Runyan, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
William W. Swayne, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Martin Swayne, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
George M. Sims, died of disease at Louisville, Ky.
Henry Seymour, disch. at end of service, Sept. 17, 1864.
Albert Shelmire, disch. at end of service, Sept. 17, 1864.
William H. Studley, disch. at end of service, Sept. 17, 1864.
Charles W. Stafford, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Daniel B. Saunders, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Andrew Shafer, disch. for disability, Dec. 1, 1861.
Joseph M. Snyder, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
George W. Swift, died of disease at Camp Gilbert, Ky., Jan. 20, 1862.
Carlisle Smith, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
George H. Shelt, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
David R. Spencer, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
John Stahlnecker, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
George Seymour, must. out at end of service, Sept. 17, 1864.
John Studley, must. out at end of service, Sept. 17, 1864.
Isaiah Swift.
William Sutton, died of disease at Gallatin, Tenn., Dec. 22, 1862.
Caleb Simmons, died of disease at Cincinnati, Ohio, July 15, 1862.
Ethan D. Starks, died of disease at Gallatin, Tenn., Dec. 24, 1862.
Augustus F. Taylor, disch. at end of service, Sept. 17, 1864.
Albert D. Tyler, disch. for disability, July 11, 1862.
Joseph Taylor, died of disease at Murfreesboro, Tenn., July 16, 1864.
John Taylor, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
William Taylor, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Charles T. Torrey, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Edwin A. Tenney, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Charles Van Vliet, died at Chattanooga, Tenn., Oct. 28, 1863, of wounds.
John P. West, disch. for disability, Feb. 13, 1863.
George E. Wolcott, disch. at end of service, Sept. 17, 1864.
Loren M. Waldo, disch. for disability, July 28, 1862.
Joseph M. Wisner.
Herman Wedemann, disch. at end of service, Sept. 17, 1864.
George Warren, disch. for disability, Sept. 9, 1863.
Storrs Wilbur, disch. at end of service, Sept. 17, 1864.
Martin V. Wright, disch. for disability, April 28, 1862.
Albert D. Wetherby, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Hiram C. Wilber, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
John H. Wilber, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Asa H. Wilber, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
Thomas C. Winters, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.
David Wetherell, must. out Aug. 3, 1865.

Battery F, First Michigan Light Artillery, also known as the Sixth Michigan Battery, was organized at Coldwater in October, 1861, and left for Louisville, Kentucky, in March, 1862; was in Kentucky till the latter

part of 1863, when it was sent to Knoxville, Tennessee, and thence to join Sherman's movement toward Atlanta; after the capture of Atlanta, the battery followed Hood back into Tennessee, and in December, 1864, participated in the decisive engagement at Nashville. Early in 1865 the battery was transferred to Washington, and saw service along the coast and in North Carolina until the war closed. It was mustered out at Jackson, Michigan, July 1, 1865.

MEMBERS OF BATTERY F FROM BRANCH COUNTY.

John S. Andrews, Coldwater, capt.; enl. Oct. 15, 1861; res. Dec. 5, 1862.
Luther F. Hale, Coldwater, 1st lieut.; enl. Oct. 15, 1861; capt., Dec. 5, 1862; maj., Sept. 1, 1863; lieut.-col., March 14, 1864; res. Nov. 17, 1864.
George B. Tyler, Coldwater, 1st lieut.; enl. Oct. 15, 1861; killed in action, June 29, 1862, at Henderson, Ky., by guerrillas.
Byron D. Paddock, Coldwater, 2d lieut.; enl. July 1, 1862; 1st lieut., Dec. 5, 1862; capt., Sept. 1, 1863; must. out at end of service, April 6, 1865.
George Holbrook, Coldwater, 2d lieut.; enl. Sept. 1, 1862; 1st lieut., Sept. 2, 1863; must. out at end of service, Jan. 10, 1865.
William H. Brown, Coldwater, 2d lieut.; enl. Dec. 5, 1862; res. March 15, 1864.
Marshall M. Miller, Coldwater, 2d lieut.; enl. March 15, 1864; 1st lieut., Jan. 19, 1865; wounded in action at Marietta, Ga., June 27, 1864; must. out July 1, 1865, with battery.
George Hawley, Coldwater, 2d lieut.; enl. Sept. 2, 1863; 1st lieut., Jan. 10, 1865; capt., April 6, 1865, must. out July 1, 1865, with battery.
John Hughes, Coldwater, 2d lieut.; enl. as sergt., April 6. 1865; must. out July 1, 1865, with battery.
John B. Allen, must. out July 1, 1865.
Hiram B. Avery, disch. for disability, May 15, 1862.
Joseph Badger, disch. for disability, June 12, 1862.
Manderville Bates, disch. for disability, March 2, 1863.
Charles Brayton, must. out July 1, 1865.
Daniel Burleson.
Joseph Bedell, died of disease at Quincy, Mich., March 15, 1865.
Charles Bridge, died of disease at Glasgow, Ky., Nov. 17, 1863.
Gideon S. Baker.
George O. Bush.
Martin L. Burleson, must. out July 1, 1865.
Samuel Butcher, must. out July 1, 1865.
William H. Brown.
David H. Carter, must. out July 1, 1865.
Albert Cummings, disch. for disability, Sept. 27, 1862.
Levi Coup, disch. at end of service, Jan. 14, 1865.
Francis C. Corneille, must. out July 1, 1865.
Charles D. Christian.
Levi Cory.
George W. Clark, disch. for disability, June 12, 1862.
Watson R. Cole, disch. by order, June 7, 1865.
James D. Cole, disch. for pro. to 12th U. S. Col. Heavy Art.
Harvey Dart, died of disease at Bowling Green, Ky., Jan. 29, 1863.
Ambrose David, disch. at end of service, Jan. 28, 1865.
Leman Dibble, disch. at end of service, April 28, 1865.
Calvin J. Dart, disch. at end of service, April 19, 1865.
Harvey Darwin, must. out July 1, 1865.
Isaac C. Estlow, must. out July 1, 1865.
John G. Gould, must. out July 1, 1865.
Webster Goodrich, disch. for disability, Sept. 24, 1862.
Isaac Grundy, must. out July 1, 1865.
John Graham, must. out at end of service, Jan. 14, 1865.
Henry A. Hutson.
George H. Hawley, disch. to re-enl. as vet., Feb. 20, 1864.
William E. Holmes, disch. for disability, June 12, 1862.
Joseph J. Hartwell, must. out July 1, 1865.
John Hughes, must. out July 1, 1865.
George Holbrake.
James M. Hulbert, must. out July 1, 1865.
William H. Howe, disch. for disability, Feb. 20, 1863.
Michael Holweg, must. out July 1, 1865.
Marquis L. Hayner, disch. to take com'sn in 12th U. S. Col. H. Art.
Frederick Keeler.
Joseph Lapointe.
Leverett Lee, must. out July 1, 1865.
Willard Lease, must. out July 1, 1865.
Gideon Lease, disch. at end of service, Jan. 28, 1865.
Marshall M. Miller, disch. to re-enl. as vet., Feb. 20, 1864.
Joseph McKinney, must. out July 1, 1865.
David C. Myers, must. out by order, Jan. 27, 1865.

George W. Misner, disch. for disability, June 12, 1862.
Nathan Morse, disch. for disability, May 15, 1862.
Peleg S. Manchester, died of disease at Louisville, Ky., Jan. 19, 1865.
Asher M. Miller, disch. for disability, Nov. 26, 1862.
Philo P. Miller, disch. for disability, Feb. 26, 1863.
William W. Misner, must. out July 1, 1865.
James H. McCauley, disch. at end of service, Jan. 28, 1865.
Sanford H. McCauley, disch. at end of service, Aug. 19, 1865.
James McCrea, disch. at end of service, Jan. 28, 1865.
Isaac McCrea, disch. at end of service, Jan. 28, 1865.
John W. McGinnis, disch. at end of service, Jan. 28, 1865.
Samuel B. McCourtee, disch. to re-enl. as vet., Feb. 20, 1864.
Sylvester W. McNitt, must. out July 1, 1865.
Wm. N. Millard.
James Morrill, must. out July 1, 1865.
Wesley J. Nichols, must. out July 1, 1865.
William H. Pratt, disch. at end of service, Jan. 28, 1865.
Gideon Pease.
Eben Palmeter, disch. for disability, Jan. 28, 1864.
Joseph Palmeter, disch. by order, May 11, 1864.
James T. Porter, disch. at end of service, Jan. 28, 1865.
Benson W. Paddock, disch. for disability, Nov. 18, 1862.
Cyrus W. Parker, must. out July 1, 1865.
Sherman B. Ransom, disch. to accept com'sn in 12 U. S. Col. H. Art.
James M. Ransom, disch. for disability, May 15, 1862.
Andrew J. Shook, disch. at end of service, Jan. 28, 1865.
Almiron L. Sharp, died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 28, 1864.
Stephen D. Sherman, disch. for disability, Nov. 18, 1862.
Abram E. Stowell, disch. for disability, Oct. 14, 1862.
Truman A. Smith, disch. at end of service, Jan. 28, 1865.
Samuel L. Stowell, disch. at end of service, Jan. 28, 1865.
William Taft, disch. by order, July 1, 1865.
Harrison Taylor, disch. at end of service, Jan. 28, 1865.
David S. Thompson.
Rowland F. Underhill, disch. for disability, March 11, 1863.
Abner T. Van Vorst, disch. for disability, Oct. 3, 1863.
Nicholas Van Alstine, must. out July 1, 1865.
Amos Vanderpoel, must. out July 1, 1865.
Samuel Wright, must. out July 1, 1865.
Isaac H. White, disch. at end of service, Jan. 28, 1865.
William H. White.
Abram L. Webb, disch. for disability April 28, 1862.
David E. Wedge, disch. for disability, April 28, 1862.
Carlton Wakefield, must. out July 1, 1865.

Battery G, Michigan Artillery, was also largely made up of Branch county men, and was mustered into service at Kalamazoo, January 16, 1862. Its first service was in Kentucky and along the Ohio river into West Virginia. It was then a part of Sherman's forces operating in northern Mississippi, and with Grant about Vicksburg, rendering specially valuable service in the movement against Jackson. It later was sent to Louisiana and along the Texas coast, and finally took part in the siege and capture of Mobile. It was mustered out of service at Jackson, Michigan, August 6, 1865.

MEMBERS OF BATTERY G FROM BRANCH COUNTY.

Charles H. Lanphere, Coldwater, capt.; enl. Oct. 3, 1861; res. Sept. 1, 1863.
Albin T. Lanphere, Coldwater, 1st lieut.; enl. Oct. 3, 1861; res. June 5, 1862.
James H. Burdick, Coldwater, 2d lieut.; enl. Oct. 3, 1861; capt., Sept. 1, 1863; must. out at end of service, Jan. 17, 1865.
Robert M. Wilder, Coldwater, 2d lieut.; enl. Oct. 3, 1861; 1st. lieut., Oct. 22, 1862; res. May 3, 1863.
George L. Stillman, Coldwater, 2d lieut.; enl. Feb. 15, 1863; 1st. lieut., Sept., 1863; must. out Aug. 6, 1865, with battery.
Edwin E. Lewis, Coldwater, 2d lieut.; enl. June 6, 1862; 1st. lieut., April 19, 1864; capt., Jan. 7, 1865; must. out Aug. 6, 1865, with battery.
Elliott M. Burdick, Coldwater, 2 lieut.; enl. April 19, 1864; must. out Aug. 6, 1865; with battery.
Theodore F. Garvin, Coldwater, 2d lieut.; enl. as sergt., April 6, 1865; must. out Aug. 6, 1865, with battery.

George H. Abbott, disch. at end of service, March 4, 1865.
Robert H. Abbott, disch. for disability, June 16, 1863.
Philander L. Alden, must. out Aug. 6, 1865.
Elijah C. Branch, disch. for disability, Nov. 4, 1862.
Clinton J. Ball, died of disease at Fort Gaines, Ala., Nov. 25, 1864.
George Busler, died of disease, April 25, 1862.
Hiram L. Brace, trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, April 10, 1864.
Aaron Barnes, must. out Aug. 6, 1865.
Nathaniel R. Barnes, must. out Aug. 6, 1865.
George N. Brown, must. out Aug. 6, 1865.
Archibald D. Cooper, must. out Aug. 6, 1865.
George W. Clark, must. out Aug. 6, 1865.
Daniel J. Cook, must. out Aug. 6, 1865.
Francis L. Cain, must. out Aug. 6, 1865.
Ezra S. Corey, disch. at end of service, Jan. 28, 1865.
Edgar A. Craft, disch. to enl. in regular service, Nov. 25, 1862.
Stephen B. Campbell, disch. for disability, July 15, 1862.
Daniel B. Campbell, disch. for disability, April, 1862.
Reuben Cornell, disch. for disability, April 11, 1862.
Daniel Douglass, must. out Aug. 6, 1865.
William Dillen, disch. at end of service, Jan. 28, 1865.
Benjamin F. Dumont, disch. at end of service, Jan. 28, 1865.
Austin Engle, disch. for disability, March 4, 1864.
Jeremiah Ferguson, trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, March 5, 1864.
William S. Gibson, trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, Sept. 25, 1864.
Charles M. Gay, must. out Aug. 6, 1865.
Lyman J. Goodell, must. out Aug. 6, 1865.
Daniel J. Gibson, trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, Sept. 25, 1864.
Moses A. Hewett, trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, April 10, 1864.
Daniel Higgins, disch. for disability, March 1, 1862.
George W. Harris, disch. by sentence of G. C. M., Sept. 6, 1862.
Tobias Haynes, died of disease at Pass Cavallo, Texas, June 7, 1864.
Edwin R. Hause, died of disease at New Orleans, July 21, 1865.
Francis Harvey, disch. at end of service, Jan. 28, 1865.
James D. C. Harvey, died of disease near Perkie's Plantation, La., May 31, 1863.
William Hurst, must. out Aug. 6, 1865.
Albert Johnson, must. out Aug. 6, 1865.
Elias Johnson, must. out Aug. 6, 1865.
Benjamin Knickerbocker, disch. for disability, Aug. 10, 1863.
Frederick Knickerbocker, disch. at end of service, Jan. 28, 1865.
Philander Knapp, must. out Aug. 6, 1865.
Somers Leland, disch. for disability, June 16, 1863.
Sidney Leland, disch. at end of service, Jan. 28, 1865.
Henry Lindenburg, must. out Aug. 6, 1865.
Thaddeus E. Lawrence, died at Paducah, Ky., Feb. 9, 1863, of wounds.
James A. Mason, must. out Aug. 6, 1865.
Charles R. Moore, must. out Aug. 6, 1865.
Charles Huffman, must. out Aug. 6, 1865.
Emanuel G. Miller, must. out Aug. 6, 1865.
John W. McDonald, died at Paducah, Ky., Jan. 18, 1863, of wounds.
Morgan Marquette, died of disease at Cumberland Gap, Tenn., Aug. 3, 1862.
Benjaman S. Osburn.
Cortlandt Olds, disch. for disability, Oct. 20, 1864.
John Osterman, died of disease near Vicksburg, Tenn., July 1, 1863.
Samuel A. Peterson, must. out Aug. 6, 1865.
Edwin Palmeter, disch. for disability.
Henry Patterson, disch. to enter U. S. Navy, Aug. 25, 1865.
William E. Page, disch. at end of service, Feb. 12, 1865.
John Ray, disch. at end of service, Jan. 28, 1865.
Jacob Raupp, must. out Aug. 6, 1865.
Elijah Smith, disch. for disability, Feb., 1863.
Peter Snooks, disch. at end of service, Jan. 28, 1865.
William Snooks.
Fred. Schnoerstine, disch. to enlist in regular service, Nov. 25, 1862.
Frederick Schmidt, disch. at end of service, Jan. 28, 1865.
Fayette N. Swift, disch. at end of service, Jan. 28, 1865.
Seymour Straight, died of disease at Young's Point, La., March 3, 1863.
Samuel Smith, disch. for disability, Aug. 19, 1862.
Chester L. Stephens, must. out Aug. 6, 1865.
Smith Taylor, disch. for disability, Aug. 27, 1862.
William H. Thurber, disch. for disability, Aug. 28, 1862.
Lyman Thurber, disch. for disability, Nov. 26, 1862.
John J. Vickory, disch. for wounds, April 17, 1863.
Aaron Van Antwerp, must. out Aug. 6, 1865.
Sylvester B. Wright, disch. at end of service, Jan. 17, 1865.

Branch county furnished a small quota of soldiers to each of various others regiments and batteries besides those already given. Their record follows:

SECOND INFANTRY.

John Q. Adams, Co. B; died at Washington, D. C., June 10, 1864, of wounds.
Feron Anderson, Co. B; died of wounds, July 18, 1864.
Fletcher Alford, Co. G; disch. at expiration of service, July 12, 1864.
Wesley Banfield, Co. B; missing in action near Petersburg, Va., Sept. 30, 1864.
Robert A. Belton, Co. B; died at Portsmouth Grove, R. I., June 17, 1864, of wounds.
William J. Baldwin, Co. A; must. out July 28, 1865.
Mandeville Bates, Co. D; must. out July 28, 1865.
Edward E. Gibson, Co. D; disch. for disability, Sept. 30, 1864.
Andrew Granger, Co. A; must. out Aug. 8, 1865.
Ludlow A. Hollenbeck, Co. A; disch. for disability, Aug. 16, 1864.
Elijah Hammond, Co. B; must. out July 28, 1865.
Charles J. Moore, Co. H; must. out July 28, 1865.
George McKewn, Co. H; died in hospital, 1st Div., 9th A. C., July 25, 1864.
Ralph Truax, Co. D; must. out May 12, 1865.
James Upton, Co. B; must. out Aug. 2, 1865.

THIRD INFANTRY.

Anderson Brown, Co. G; missing in action, Jan. 4, 1864.
Sidney J. Burlington, Co. F; trans. to 5th Inf., June 10, 1864.

FOURTH INFANTRY.

David H. Wood, Quincy, 2d lieut.; enl. July 26, 1864; 1st lieut., Oct. 24, 1865; must. out May 26, 1866, with regiment.
Amos Aldrich, Co. E; died of disease at San Antonio, Texas, Feb. 8, 1866.
Charles Brownell, Co. E; must. out Aug. 21, 1865.
Henry E. Beale, Co. C; disch. at expiration of service, Jan. 29, 1864.
Samuel B. Corbus, Co. E; must. out May 26, 1866.
Canfield A. Fisk, Co. C; disch. at expiration of service, June 29, 1864.
William H. Holcomb, Co. B; died of wounds at Washington, D. C., Feb., 1863.
John A. Homer, Co. C; disch. for disability, April 28, 1863.
Thomas Jones, Co. E; must. out May 26, 1866.
John Kinney, Co. C; disch. for disability, Feb. 8, 1863.
John P. Kidney, Co. C; disch. at expiration of service, June 29, 1864.
Joseph Price, Co. C; died of wounds received in action, July 31, 1862.
Jacob Roupp, Co. C; disch. at expiration of service, Oct. 1, 1863.
Cessna Smith, Co. E; must. out Aug. 21, 1865.
Andrew J. Tindall, Co. E; died of disease at Murfreesboro, Tenn., Jan. 1, 1865.
Oren Vangilder, Co. I; disch. to enl. in regular service, Dec. 24, 1862.
Charles Wademan, Co. C; disch. at expiration of service, June 29, 1864.
George Williams, Co. C; died at New York City, Aug. 10, 1862.
Jerome B. Youngs, Co. C; trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, Jan. 15, 1864.

SIXTH INFANTRY.

George W. Barry, Co. K; disch. by order, July 24, 1865.
Charles W. Hewitt, Co. C; disch. to re-enl. as vet., Feb. 1, 1864.
Joseph W. Ralph, Co. C; must. out Aug. 20, 1865.
Lorenzo P. Van Slyke, Co. I; must. out Aug. 20, 1865.
Benjamin Wheaton, Co. I; disch. by order, Sept. 2, 1865.
Roman S. Whipple, Co. K; disch. by order, July 24, 1865.

TENTH INFANTRY.

Charles W. Bray, Co. K; must. out July 19, 1865.
Jabez Carlisle, Co. A; must. out July 19, 1865.
Joseph Echtinaw, Co. A; must. out July 19, 1865.
John Huffman, Co. G; must. out July 19, 1865.

TWELFTH INFANTRY.

William Buck, Co. C; disch. by order, Oct. 12, 1865.
Robert Cosgrove, Co. B; disch. by G. C. M., Dec. 14, 1865.
Albert L. Gibson, Co. H; must. out Feb. 15, 1866.
Lewis Hause, Co. B; died of disease at Duvall's Bluff, Ark., Aug. 1, 1864.
Nathan A. Johnson, Co. B; died of disease at Little Rock, Ark., July 15, 1864.
Patrick Keeley, Co. D; must. out Feb. 15, 1866.
Thomas McEvoy, Co. E; disch. by order, Oct. 13, 1865.
William H. Savage, Co. A; disch. at expiration of service, Sept. 9, 1865.
Daniel Tice, Co. B; must. out Feb. 15, 1866.

THIRTEENTH INFANTRY.

Abel E. Barber, Co. E; disch. by order, June 8, 1865.
Stephen Brooks, Co. I; disch. by order, June 8, 1865.
Sier Baird, Co. I; disch. by order, June 8, 1865.
Benj. Cleveland, Co. E; died of disease at Savannah, Ga., Feb. 9, 1865.
Josephus Clark, Co. I; disch. by order, Aug. 4, 1865.
Hiram Evans, Co. E; died of disease at Savannah, Ga., Jan. 15, 1865.
Calvin B. Ferris, Co. I; died of disease March 3, 1865.
Levi R. Fuller, Co. I; disch. by order.
Charles W. Hoxie, Co. I; must. out July 25, 1865.
Horace June, Co. I; died of disease at Troy, N. Y., April 2, 1863.
James Ransom, Co. I; disch. by order, June 8, 1865.
Peter B. Tindall, Co. I; disch. by order, June 23, 1865.
Milton R. Thompson, Co. E; disch. by order, June 26, 1865.

FOURTEENTH INFANTRY.

John W. Arnold, Co. G; must. out July 18, 1865.
Archibald Bates, Co. G; must. out July 18, 1865.
John L. Bowers, Co. B; must. out July 18, 1865.
Dwight L. Burbank, Co. B; disch. by order, Aug. 2, 1865.
Andrew Doyle, Co. G; disch. by order, June 22, 1865.
Jefferson L. Friend, Co. A; must. out July 18, 1865.
Thomas G. King, Co. B; must. out July 18, 1865.
Sylvester Kilbourn, Co. B; must. out July 18, 1865.
William Kelso, Co. G; must. out July 18, 1865.
William Luke, Co. G; must. out July 18, 1865.
George McKnight, Co. G; disch. for disability, June 12, 1865.
Robert McMurray, Co. B; must. out July 18, 1865.
Charles Reynolds, Co. G; must. out July 18, 1865.
Christian Perkins, Co. H; must. out July 18, 1865.
Jeremiah Shane, Co. D; disch. for disability, Nov. 11, 1865.
Ambrose Stevens, Co. G; died of disease at Newbern, N. C., May 27, 1865.
John J. Smith, Co. G; must. out July 18, 1865.
Augustus Thies, Co. H; must. out July 18, 1865.
Lewis Warner, Co. B; must. out July 18, 1865.
Franklin Warren, Co. C; disch. for wounds, June 18, 1865.

TWENTY-FOURTH INFANTRY.

Austin Birch, Co. —; must. out June 28, 1865.
Jonathan W. Crawford, Co. E; must. out June 30, 1865.
Theodore Dickinson, Co. —; must. out June 30, 1865.
George Frear, Co. E; must. out June 30, 1865.
John French, Co. F; must. out June 30, 1865.
Elmore Gates, Co. —; must. out June 30, 1865.
Peter D. Gibson, Co. —; must. out June 30, 1865.
Carlton Greenleaf, Co. B; must. out June 30, 1865.
Charles Leigh, Co. E; must. out June 30, 1865.
Melvin G. Lincoln, Co. E; must. out June 30, 1865.
Ezra Lewis, Co. I; must. out June 30, 1865.
William A. Peavey, Co. —; must. out June 30, 1865.
John Sterling, Co. A; died of disease at Culpeper, Va., April 14, 1864.
George Vandine, Co. E; must. out June 30, 1865.
George E. Walcott, Co. E; must. out June 30, 1865.
Julius M. Ward, Co. E; must. out June 30, 1865.

TWENTY-FIFTH INFANTRY.

Oliver H. Blanchard, Co. E; died of disease at Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 13, 1865.
J. S. Manning, Co. D; died of disease at Knoxville, Tenn., April 1, 1864.
Edward P. Whitmore, Co. D; disch. for disability March 25, 1863.
Bruce C. Wilcox, Co. E; must. out June 24, 1865.

TWENTY-SIXTH INFANTRY.

Nelson Kenney, Co. G; died of disease at Alexandria Va., Dec. 20, 1863.

TWENTY-SEVENTH INFANTRY.

Edwin P. Warren, Co. H; must. out July 1, 1865.

THIRTIETH INFANTRY.

Abram R. Colburn, N. C. S.; must. out June 30, 1865.
Oscar Denning, Co. D; must. out June 30, 1865.
Thaddeus Eddington, Co. A; must. out June 30, 1865.
Thomas B. Farley, Co. A; must. out June 30, 1865.
James E. Foster, Co. D; must. out June 30, 1865.

Charles A. Gilbert, Co. A; must. out June 30, 1865.
James A. Kent, Co. D; must. out June 30, 1865.
Alex. Lesprence, Co. D; must. out June 30, 1865.
Floyd Moulton, Co. A; must. out June 30, 1865.
John Sullivan, Co. A; must. out June 30, 1865.
Peter H. Van Etten, Co. A; must. out June 30, 1865.
Asa Woolcott, Co. H; must. out June 30, 1865.

ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND U. S. COLORED TROOPS.

John Delany, Co. B; must. out Sept. 30, 1865.
George H. Goins, Co. B; must. out Sept. 30, 1865.
George C. Smith, Co. B; must. out Sept. 30, 1865.
John Saunders, Co. B; must. out Sept. 30, 1865.
John H. Thomas, Co. C; must. out Sept. 30, 1865.
Charles Johns, Co. I; must. out Sept. 30, 1865.

DUESLER'S SHARPSHOOTERS.

James Curtis, Benjamin Carter, Elisha R. Philo, Wallace W. Root, Byron E. Williams.

FIFTH NEW YORK INFANTRY (DURYEA'S ZOUAVES).

F. D. Newberry, enl. in April, 1861; must. out May 14, 1863; with regiment in the principal battles of the Army of the Potomac.

ELEVENTH CONNECTICUT INFANTRY.

C. V. R. Pond, acting q.-m., Sept. 30, 1861; commissioned q.-m. in 12th Conn. Inf.; took part in the naval engagement at Fort Jackson and in the capture of New Orleans; disch. March 4, 1864.

FIRST CAVALRY.

Samuel L. Brass, Ovid, 2d lieut., April 11, 1865; must. out March 10, 1866, with regiment.
Barton S. Tibbits, Coldwater, 2d lieut. (as sergt.), July 10, 1865; must. out March 10, 1866, with regiment.
William Bronson, Co. B; must. out March 10, 1866.
John Dennis, Co. G; must. out Dec. 5, 1865.
Elisha Demarest, Co. M; must. out March 25, 1866.
Edwin Fox, Co. G; must. out Dec. 5, 1865.
Charles Prentis, Co. I; must. out Dec. 5, 1865.
James J. Pendill, Co. K; must. out May 11, 1866.
Lucius Stray, Co. E; must. out March 2, 1865.

SECOND CAVALRY.

William H. Tallman, Coldwater, 2d. lieut., March 1, 1864; capt., Oct. 7, 1864; trans., June 8, 1865, to 136th U. S. C. T.
Henry W. Walker, Ovid, 1st lieut. and quartermaster, July 31, 1865; not must.
Washington Bulson, Co. G; must. out Aug. 17, 1864
John M. Colwell, Co. I; died of disease at Rienzi, Miss., Aug. 13, 1862.
George W. Hand, Co. M; must. out Aug. 17, 1865.
Henry G. Johnson, Co. G; must. out June 3, 1865.
Nelson Norton, Co. H; must. out Aug. 30, 1865.
Frank Zahninger, Co. M; must. out June 17, 1865.

THIRD CAVALRY.

John C. Baker, Co. K; died of disease at St. Louis, Mo., April 7, 1864.
Charles A. Cook, Co. M; must. out Feb. 12, 1866.
Thomas Davis, Co. F; died of disease at Rienzi, Miss., July 25, 1862.
Fred Eberhard, Co. A; died of disease at Duvall's Bluff, Ark., July 23, 1864.
George Hawley, Co. G; must. out Feb. 12, 1866.
Henry M. Lily, Co. A; must. out Feb. 12, 1866.
Theodore Oliver, Co. A; died of disease at Brownsville, Ark., Aug. 25, 1864.
Mike Reynolds, Co. G; must. out Feb. 12, 1866.
John Vorhees, Co. K; died of disease at Brownsville, Ark., Aug. 25, 1864.
Martin Vanderhoof, Co. M; must. out Feb. 12, 1866.
Jasper L. Wooden, Co. A; must. out March 17, 1866.

SEVENTH CAVALRY.

Edward Carr, Co. F; trans. to 1st Mich. Cav., Nov. 17, 1865.
Elisha Demorest, Co. H; trans. to 1st Mich. Cav., Nov. 17, 1865.
Peter M. Dubendorf, Co. M; must. out Dec. 8, 1865.
James Eldred, Co. C; must. out March 27, 1865.
Charles Goodrich, Co. M; trans. to 1st Mich. Cav., Nov. 17, 1865.
Michael Kanouse, Co. F; must. out Dec. 15, 1865.
Moses Kanouse, Co. F; must. out Dec. 15, 1865.
Spencer Leigh, Co. H; must. out Dec. 15, 1865.

William Marshall, Co. H; must. out Dec. 15, 1865.
William Milliman, Co. H; must. out Dec. 15, 1865.
Charles H. Osterhout, Co. L; must. out Dec. 15, 1865.
William S. Page, Co. A; trans. to 1st Mich. Cav., Nov. 17, 1865.
Minard O. Van Gilder, Co. H; must. out Dec. 8, 1865.
Colbert Van Gieson, Co. E; must. out Dec. 15, 1865.
George O. Van Gieson, Co. E; must. out Dec. 15, 1865.

MERRILL HORSE.

Henry H. Larkin, Co. L; must. out May 4, 1865.

BATTERY C, FIRST LIGHT ARTILLERY.

Harry Brown.
John F. Button, must. out June 24, 1865.
Benjamin Cole, died in hospital at Camp Clear Creek, July 16, 1862.
George W. Cole, must. out June 22, 1865.
Warren R. Corey, must. out June 24, 1865.
Merrill Fuller, must. out June 24, 1865.
Hiram Ferguson, must. out June 24, 1865.
Albridge F. Haldlay, must. out June 24, 1865.
William H. Harris, must. out June 24, 1865.
William A. Hall, died in hospital at St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 18, 1862.
George W. Houck, must. out June 24, 1865.
Seymour H. Hoyle, must. out June 24, 1865.
Amos Hunt, disch. for disability, April 1, 1863.
Lorenzo Leffingwell, must. out June 24, 1865.
Lorenzo Mosher, must. out June 24, 1865.
Adelbert Mudge, must. out June 24, 1865.
John C. McLean, must. out by order.
John S. Nichols, must. out June 24, 1865.
William Sweeney, disch. to re-enlist as veteran, Dec. 28, 1863.
Thomas J. Stewart, disch. by order, June 24, 1865.
Joseph Tubbs, must. out June 24, 1865.
Henry H. Wilber.
Hiram Wiser, must. out June 24, 1865.
Ira A. Wright, must. out by order, July 6, 1865.
George Winter, must. out June 22, 1865.

BATTERY E.

William H. Barry, must. out Aug. 30, 1865.
Ezra C. Chase, disch. by order, May 29, 1865.
Porter B. Hewitt, trans. to Vet. Res. Corps, Oct. 18, 1864.
Alonzo Randall, must. out Aug. 30, 1865.

BATTERY I.

Thomas Brady.
Theodore Craig, must. out July 14, 1865.
W. H. Compton, disch. for disability, Dec. 22, 1862.
Elisha H. Colwell, must. out July 14, 1865.
Moses Crawford, must. out July 14, 1865.
William Davis, disch. for disability, April 27.
Elijah Forbes, must. out July 14, 1865.
John M. C. Forbes, must. out July 14, 1865.
Henry Hoag, must. out July 14, 1865.
John Jordan, must. out July 14, 1865.
William Kennedy, died of disease at Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 16, 1864.
Jerome Milliman, must. out July 14. 1865.
Seth Milliman, must. out July 14, 1865.
Leonard Pursell, must. out July 14, 1865.
Alfred Reynolds, must. out July 14, 1865.
George Sutford, died of disease at Washington, D. C., March 2, 1863.
William S. Smith, must. out July 14, 1865.
William J. Scott, must. out July 14, 1865.
John Sage, must. out July 14, 1865.
John N. Warren, must. out July 14, 1865.
Harvey M. Williams, must. out July 14, 1865.
A. B. Zimmerman, disch. for disability, Oct. 24, 1862.

BATTERY K.

Marsden Miller, must. out July 22, 1865.
Ransom Simmons, must. out Aug. 22, 1865.

BATTERY L.

Isaac Barjaron, disch. for disability, Jan. 13, 1865.
Stephen M. P. Bates, died of disease at Knoxville, Oct. 25, 1864.
Roland Collingsworth, must. out Aug. 22, 1865.
Albert S. Cooper, must. out by order, May 27, 1865.
Benjamin Douglass, must. out by order, July 22, 1865.
Calvin Darwin, must. out Aug. 22, 1865.
John Finch, must. out Aug. 22, 1865.
John Granger, disch. for disability, April 1, 1864.
James Gallup, disch. by order, Sept. 26, 1865.
Henry Goodrich, disch. by order, May 22, 1865.
Henry Hopkins, disch. by order, Nov. 21, 1864.
Robert M. Hazard, must. out Aug. 22, 1865.
John Huffman, must. out Aug. 22, 1865.
David Hopkins, died of disease at Camp Nelson, Ky., Sept. 18, 1863.
Orrin J. Harding, must. out Aug. 22, 1863.
Daniel C. Larrabee, must. out by order, May 24, 1865.
Marsden Miller, must. out.
Peter Nagle.
Gaines Rudd, died of disease at Ashland, Ky., Sept. 1, 1863.
Isaac A. Rapright, must. out Aug. 22, 1865.
Van Rensselaer Sherman, must. out Aug. 22, 1865.
Vickery Jackson, disch. by order.
Stephen Wilcox, must. out Aug. 22, 1865.

BATTERY M.

George H. Moulton, Coldwater, 2d lieut.; enl. July 16, 1863; 1st lieut., Oct. 26, 1863; must. out Aug. 1, 1865, with battery.

George Stewart, disch. by order, May 29, 1865.

FIRST REGIMENT ENGINEERS AND MECHANICS.

Hiram A. Blackman, Co. K; disch. for disability.

Levi H. Curtis, Co. E; disch. at end of service, Feb. 15, 1865.

CLEVELAND LIGHT ARTILLERY.

Levi Fish, enl. April 18, 1861; disch. July 28, 1861; in battle of Carrick's Ford.

LISTS

of

BRANCH COUNTY OFFICIALS, CONTAINING THE COUNTY OFFICERS AND THE PRINCIPAL TOWNSHIP AND VILLAGE OFFICERS.

Prosecuting Attorneys.

1837-1842	Esbon G. Fuller.	1873-1876	Frank L. Skeels.
1843-1848	H. C. Gilbert.	1877-1880	Simon B. Kitchel.
1849-1850	Elon G. Parsons.	1881-1884	Chas. N. Legg.
1851-1852	James W. Gilbert.	1885-1886	John R. Champion.
1853-1854	John G. Parkhurst.	1887-1890	William E. Ware.
1855-1856	John W. Turner.	1891-1892	Elmer E. Palmer.
1857-1862	Egbert K. Nichols.	1893-1896	William H. Compton.
1863-1864	L. T. N. Wilson.	1897-1898	Chas. U. Champion.
1865-1866	George A. Coe.	1899-1900	Frank D. Newberry.
1867-1868	Wallace W. Barrett.	1901-1904	Chas. N. Legg.
1869-1872	Jonas H. McGowan.	1905-	W. Glenn Cowell.

County Clerks.

1833-1836	Wales Adams.	1863-1868	Henry N. Lawrence.
1837-1840	C. P. West.	1869-1874	Francis M. Bissell.
1841-1844	Henry B. Stillman.	1875-1880	Frank D. Newberry.
1845-1848	C. P. Benton.	1881-1892	James R. Dickey.
1849-1850	S. C. Rose.	1893-1896	E. A. Greenamyer.
1851-1854	P. P. Wright.	1897-1900	Burt M. Fellows.
1855-1856	Oben O. Leach.	1901-1904	Wallace E. Wright.
1857-1862	Benjamin C. Webb.	1905-	Henry E. Straight.

Circuit Judges.

1870-1876	Charles Upson.	1882-1887	Russell R. Pealer.
1878-1879	David Thompson.	1888-1893	Noah P. Loveridge.
1879-	John B. Shipman.	1894-	George L. Yaple.

Probate Judges.

1833-1836	Peter Martin.	1861-1864	Nelson D. Skeels.
1837-1840	Martin Olds.	1865-1868	David Thompson.
1841-	Edward A. Warner.	1869-1880	David N. Green.
1842-1844	William B. Sprague.	1881-1892	Norman A. Reynolds.
1844-1848	Esbon G. Fuller.	1893-1896	Chas. N. Legg.
1849-1856	Harvey Warner.	1897-1900	Elmer E. Palmer.
1857-1860	Jonathan H. Gray.	1901-	Frank B. Reynolds.

Sheriffs.

1833-1836	William McCarty.	1871-1874	Lewis B. Johnson.
1837-1838	James B. Stewart.	1875-1878	Jason T. Culp.
1839-1842	John H. Stevens.	1879-1882	Loring P. Wilcox.
1843-1846	Anselm Arnold.	1883-1886	Oliver C. Campbell.
1847-1848	Hiram Shoulder.	1887-1890	Alanson T. Kinney.
1849-1850	James Pierson.	1891-1894	Hezekiah Sweet.
1851-1854	Philo Porter.	1895-1898	Frank Swain.
1855-1856	Daniel Wilson.	1899-1900	William W. Herendeen.
1857-1860	David N. Green.	1901-1902	Hezekiah Sweet.
1861-1864	John Whitcomb.	1903-1904	David A. Buck.
1865-1866	Charles Powers.	1905-	John Hardenbrook.
1867-1870	Lucius M. Wing.		

Register of Deeds.

1833-1836	Seth Dunham.	1871-1874	Daniel A. Douglas.
1837-1842	Leonard Ellsworth.	1875-1878	Franklin T. Eddy.
1843-1846	Jared Pond.	1879-1880	William H. Donaldson.
1847-1850	Selleck Seymour.	1881-1886	Zelotes G. Osborn.
1851-1854	Albert L. Porter.	1887-1892	George H. Turner.
1855-1856	Curtis S. Youngs.	1893-1894	Mortimer B. Wakeman.
1857-1858	Francis B. Way.	1895-1896	Benjamin B. Gorman.
1859-1862	Franklin T. Eddy.	1897-1900	A. E. Morrison.
1863-1866	Phineas P. Nichols.	1901-1904	L. J. Gripman.
1867-1870	Charles A. Edmonds.	1905-	Chas. F. Carpenter.

County Treasurers.

1833-1834	Seth Dunham.	1873-1876	Loring P. Wilcox.
1841-1842	J. G. Corbus.	1877-1880	James R. Dickey.
1843-1850	John T. Haynes.	1881-1884	Edward W. Benton.
1851-1852	Hiram R. Alden.	1885-1888	Daniel F. Rich.
1853-1854	Wales Adams.	1889-1892	Benjamin B. Gorman.
1855-1858	Hiram Shoulder.	1893-1896	James D. Mosher.
1859-1862	Cyrus G. Luce.	1897-1898	Edgar A. Miner.
1863-1868	Moses V. Calkins.	1899-1902	Henry Seymour.
1869-1872	John Whitcomb.	1903-	Hiram Bennett.

County School Commissioners.

1894-1895	Delmore A. Teller.	1900-1903	Milton W. Wimer.
1896-1897	Milton W. Wimer.	1904-	James Swain.
1898-1899	Gertrude Dobson.		

Circuit Court Commissioners.

1851-1852	Esbon G. Fuller.	1859-1862	Wallace W. Barrett.
1851-1852	John G. Parkhurst.	1863-1864	David Thompson.
1853-1856	Justin Lawyer.	1865-1866	Franklin E. Morgan.
1857-1858	Joseph B. Clark.	1865-1870	Willard J. Bowen.

1867-1868	Jonas H. McGowan.	1889-1890	William H. Lockerby.
1869-1870	Asa M. Tinker.	1889-1892	Morey O. Viets.
1871-1872	Frank S. Skeels.	1891-1892	Andrew L. Kinney.
1871-1876	Ezra Berry.	1893-1896	Clayton C. Johnson.
1873-1878	Charles D. Wright.	1893-1896	Melvin E. Peters.
1877-1882	Chas. N. Legg.	1879-1898	Leonard F. Humphrey.
1879-1880	Norman A. Reynolds.	1897-1898	A. L. Locke
1881-1882	Andrew J. McGowan.	1899-1900	Frank B. Reynolds.
1881-1884	Milo D. Campbell.	1899-1902	Milo Thompson.
1883-1886	Frank D. Newberry.	1901-1904	Charles S. Hill.
1885-1888	Dudley M. Wells.	1903-	Charles F. Howe.
1887-1888	Frank A. Lyon.	1905-	Orrin M. Bowen.

County Surveyors.

1855-1856	Philip H. Sprague.	1881-1886	Charles Hamilton.
1857-1860	Murray Knowles.	1887-1888	Murray L. Knowles.
1861-1862	Silas H. Nye.	1889-1892	John H. Bennett.
1863-1866	Amasa R. Day.	1893-1894	A. G. Bushnell.
1867-1870	Norman S. Andrews.	1895-1896	Chas. A. Miner.
1871-1872	Titus Babcock.	1897-1898	Ianthus D. Miner.
1873-1876	John H. Bennett.	1899-	Charles Hamilton.
1877-1880	Murray Knowles.		

Coroners.

1855-1856	Isaac Middaugh.	1873-1876	Chas. H. Lovewell.
1855-1856	Israel R. Hall.	1875-1876	Edward Purdy.
1857-1858	A. C. Fisk.	1877-1878	Jerome Wolcott.
1857-1860	Charles D. Brown.	1877-1878	Aaron A. Van Orthwick.
1859-1860	John H. Bennett.	1879-1880	Roland Root.
1861-1862	George W. Johnson.	1879-1884	Delanson J. Sprague.
1861-1864	Elmer Packer.	1881-1886	Arthur R. Burrows.
1863-1864	Warren Byrnes.	1885-1890	Aaron W. Barber.
1865-1866	Daniel Miller.	1887-1896	Joseph H. Montague.
1865-1866	John C. Hall.	1891-1892	George D. Gates.
1867-1868	Moses E. Chauncey.	1893-1896	William S. Card.
1867-1868	Barnabas B. Shoecraft.	1897-1898	Alfred Cheney.
1869-1870	John H. Bennett.	1897-1898	Ezekial Barnhart.
1869-1870	Geo. W. Johnson.	1899-1900	Arthur R. Burrows.
1871-1872	Jerome S. Wolcott.	1899-	Joseph H. Montague.
1871-1872	Nathan Fetterly.	1901-1904	Milan M. Brown.
1873-1874	Jacob Kincaid.	1905-	George A. Russell.

TOWNSHIP OFFICERS.

ALGANSEE TOWNSHIP.

	Supervisor	*Clerk*	*Treasurer*	*Highway Commissioner*
1838	Asahel Brown	Jasper Underhill	George Monlux	
1839	Asahel Brown	Jasper Underhill	George Monlux	
1840	Asahel Brown	Jasper Underhill	George Monlux	
1841	Asahel Brown	E. S. E. Brainard	George Monlux	
1842	Asahel Brown	E. S. E. Brainard	George Monlux	
1843	Asahel Brown	E. S. E. Brainard	George Monlux	
1844	Asahel Brown	E. S. E. Brainard	George Monlux	Jas. H. Lawrence
1845	Asahel Brown	E. S. E. Brainard	George Monlux	Saml. B. Hanchett
1846	Asahel Brown	James Underhill	E. S. E. Brainard	J. K. Bickford
1847	Asahel Brown	James Underhill	E. S. E. Brainard	J. K. Bickford
1848	Asahel Brown	Erastus Bradley	E. S. E. Brainard	Nathaniel Fisher
1849	Asahel Brown	Robert Magden	E. S. E. Brainard	John Whitney
1850	Asahel Brown	Robert Magden	E. S. E. Brainard	J. K. Bickford
1851	Asahel Brown	Benjamin Hobbs	E. S. E. Brainard	
1852	Lyman Witter	Lemuel Pratt	E. S. E. Brainard	Wm. M. Clark
1853	Asahel Brown	Abijah Mosher	E. S. E. Brainard	Carlton Clerk
1854	James Underhill	Isaac F. Camp	E. S. E. Brainard	Orton Hoxie
1855	James Underhill	Isaac F. Camp	E. S. E. Brainard	Joel Campbell
1856	Asahel Brown	Isaac F. Camp	E. S. E. Brainard	Calvin V. Clark
1857	Asahel Brown	Nathan Nivison	E. S. E. Brainard	J. K. Bickford
1858	Erastus Bradley	Nathan Nivison	James Underhill	Orton Hoxie
1859	Erastus Bradley	Nathan Nivison	James Underhill	E. S. E. Brainard
1860	Erastus Bradley	Henry Walbridge	Levi P. Fuller	David Rhodes
1861	Asahel Brown	Henry Walbridge	Levi P. Miller	Cornelius Streeter
1862	Asahel Brown	Henry Walbridge	Levi P. Fuller	Lyman Witter
1863	Asahel Brown	Nathan Nivison	E. S. E. Brainard	Willis Potter
1864	Asahel Brown	Nathan Nivison	Mahlon Brainard	Orton Hoxie
1865	Jas. A. Williams	Lorenzo Reynolds	M. W. Brainard	Saml. H. Keeler
1866	Jas. A. Williams	Lorenzo Reynolds	Chas. J. Underhill	Thos. Nixon
1867	Jas. A. Williams	Lorenzo Reynolds	Robert Crawford	Orton Hoxie
1868	Jas. A. Williams	Levi P. Fuller	Robert Crawford	J. K. Bickford
1869	Erastus Bradley	L. P. Fuller	Robert Crawford	George Briggs
1870	Erastus Bradley	L. P. Fuller	Robert Crawford	Orton Hoxie
1871	Erastus Bradley	Olney W. Draper	Robert Crawford	Thomas Nixon
1872	J. A. Williams	Olney W. Draper	Jas. R. Crawford	Benj. Culver
1873	Jas. A. Williams	Olney W. Draper	Robert Crawford	Orton Hoxie
1874	J. A. Williams	Olney W. Draper	M. B. Wakeman	Thomas Nixon
1875	J. A. Williams	Olney W. Draper	M. B. Wakeman	Thomas Nixon
1876	J. A. Williams	Olney W. Draper	M. B. Wakeman	Thomas Nixon
1877	J. A. Williams	Olney W. Draper	M. B. Wakeman	Thomas Nixon
1878	Sereno Bradley	Roswell D. Tift	Levi A. Shumway	Stephen Knecht

1879—Olney W. Draper	James N. Martin	S. Byron Goodman	Franklin Twiss
1880—Olney W. Draper	J. Nelson Martin	S. Byron Goodman	A. B. Ransom
1881—Olney W. Draper	James B. Martin	Fred'k Hildebrand	Thomas Nixon
1882—Olney W. Draper	James B. Martin	Fred'k Hildebrand	L. D. Reynolds
1883—Sereno Bradley	H. W. Hungerford	Jos. H. Barker	Orton Hoxie
1884—Sereno Bradley	H. W. Hungerford	Jos. H. Barker	Franklin Twiss
1885—M. B. Wakeman	Wm. J. Houck	David M. Draper	L. D. Reynolds
1886—M. B. Wakeman	Wm. J. Houck	Fred C. Fulkerson	L. D. Reynolds
1887—M. B. Wakeman	Wm. J. Houck	Fred C. Fulkerson	S. B. Goodman
1888—M. B. Wakeman	Wm. J. Houck	C. N. Goodman	Orton Hoxie
1889—M. B. Wakeman	Wm. J. Houck	C. N. Goodman	Wm. M. Carey
1890—M. B. Wakeman	Wm. J. Houck	Wm. Gottschalk	Wm. Carey
1891—M. B. Wakeman	Wm. J. Houck	Wm. Gottschalk	Frank O. Heydon
1892—M. B. Wakeman	E. A. Waterbury	Fred Purdy	Frank O. Heydon
1893—W. J. Houck	E. A. Waterbury	Fred Purdy	David Wilbur
1894—Wm. J. Houck	E. A. Waterbury	John W. Sage	David Wilbur
1895—Wm. J. Houck	E. A. Waterbury	John W. Sage	David Wilbur
1896—Wm. J. Houck	E. A. Waterbury	Loren H. Draper	David Wilbur
1897—Wm. W. Poats	F. S. Reynolds	John F. Seachrist	Frank Knapp
1898—Wm. W. Poats	F. S. Reynolds	John F. Seachrist	
1899—Olney W. Draper	Fred E. Wilbur	Albert J. Marshall	Daniel B. Crapo
1900—Wm. W. Poats	Fred A. Waterbury	Albert J. Marshall	Albert Bennett
1901—Ebenezer Keeler	E. E. Bennett	Geo. Goodwin	Albert Bennett
1902—Ebenezer Keeler	E. A. Waterbury	Geo. Goodwin	Henry Emons
1903—Ebenezer Keeler	E. A. Waterbury	S. J. Chestnut	Wm. H. Emons
1904—			
1905—Fred Purdy	Loren H. Draper	C. F. Myers	Mart. A. Griswold
1906—S. B. Goodman	Loren H. Draper	E. A. Waterbury	H. C. Waterbury

Batavia Township.

Supervisor	*Clerk*	*Treasurer*	*Highway Commissioner*
1836—Martin Olds	John H. Stevens		Morgan S. Smead
1837—Martin Olds	John H. Stevens		Samuel Fairbanks
1838—Martin Olds	John H. Stevens		Leonard Taylor
1839—Martin Olds	Elijah Thomas	Shirlock Cook	John Bassett
1840—Martin Olds	Samuel H. Cary	Shirlock Cook	Albert Dudley
1841—Martin Olds	Samuel H. Cary	Shirlock Cook	Hiram Brink
1842—Martin Olds	Lewis Kingsbury	Samuel H. Cary	Morgan L. Tyler
1843—Philo Porter	Lewis Kingsbury	Timothy L. Miller	Leonard Taylor
1844—Philo Porter	Lewis Kingsbury	Timothy L. Miller	Wm. L. Parker
1845—Philo Porter	Martin Olds	Timothy L. Miller	Peter Grove
1846—Philo Porter	Martin Olds	Timothy L. Miller	Jesse C. Martin
1847—Philo Porter	Smith Dow	Martin Olds	Wm. L. Parker
1848—Smith Dow	James Murphey	Martin Olds	Nathan'l Woodard
1849—Philo Porter	James Murphey	George Hoag	Jesse C. Martin
1850—Nath'l Woodard	D. G. Olds	George Hoag	Wm. L. Parker
1851—Nath'l Woodard	D. G. Olds	George Hoag	Smith Dow
1852—Smith Dow	Harrison Cary	George Hoag	Jesse C. Martin
1853—James Murphey	Harrison Cary	Samuel D. Parker	Archibald Hanks
1854—James Murphey	Martin P. Olds	Samuel D. Parker	Smith Dow
1855—David Fonda	H. M. Loomis	James D. Cole	Jacob Reynolds

1856—Philo Porter	Martin P. Olds	Samuel D. Parker	Archibald Hanks
1857—Morgan L. Tyler	Carlos Dunham	Jesse C. Martin	Isaac Sprague
1858—Morgan L. Tyler	Martin P. Olds	Hiram Brink	Northrup Sweet
1859—William Skinner	Carlos Dunham	Warren Holcomb	Hiram Barrett
1860—David Fonda	Hiram Simmons	S. Richardson	Isaac Sprague
1861—Harrison Cary	Luther C. Stone	Wm. M. Tyler	Hiram Brink
1862—Harrison Cary	Luther C. Stone	Elijah C. Sterne	
1863—David Fonda	James Campbell	Jacob Daharsh	David C. Fonda
1864—David Fonda	James Campbell	William Nivison	Hiram Brink
1865—David Fonda	James Campbell	David C. Gould	Daniel Miller
1866—Morgan L. Tyler	James Campbell	Hiram Simmons	John C. Thayer
1867—James Campbell	Fuller Atchinson	George Miller	Wm. R. Card
1868—James Campbell	Fuller Atchinson	M. D. Bonney	David C. Fonda
1869—James Campbell	Fuller Atchinson	George Miller	John C. Thayer
1870—James Campbell	M. D. Bonney	George Miller	Wm. R. Card
1871—C. W. Fairbanks	Benj. F. Rolph	Leroy E. Graves	Elijah Grove
1872—C. W. Fairbanks	George Miller	Leroy E. Graves	John C. Thayer
1873—Hiram Simmons	George Miller	Jedediah Wilcox	H. F. Buffham
1874—Wm. M. Tyler	George Miller	Admiral Burch	Ransom W. Covey
1875—Jas. Campbell	Admiral Burch	Arch. R. Grove	John Martin
1876—Wm. M. Tyler	Admiral Burch	H. F. Saunders	N. H. Saunders
1877—W. M. Tyler	Pliny W. Titus	Peter Manguse	Wm. R. Card
1878—M. W. Brown	L. M. Bowers	Benj. S. Wilcox	Alonzo Olmstead
1879—Charles Austin	G. E. Willis	John Bowers	A. R. Grove
1880—Wm. L. Tyler	G. E. Willis	Jedediah Wilcox	Ira Martin
1881—W. M. Tyler	Geo. Miller	Jedediah Wilcox	R. W. Covey
1882—Geo. Miller	Edwin Harkness	H. F. Saunders	R. W. Covey
1883—Geo. Miller	Edwin Harkness	Francis Moore	A. P. Johnson
1884—Geo. Miller	Edwin Harkness	Francis Moore	R. W. Covey
1885—Geo. Miller	Edwin Harkness	Geo. W. Cleveland	R. W. Covey
1886—Geo. Miller	Edwin Harkness	Geo. W. Cleveland	
1887—Geo. Miller	Geo. E. Willer	Elijah Grove	Wm. H. Fonda
1888—Geo. Miller	O. A. Vanderbilt	Elijah Grove	
1889—Geo. Miller	O. A. Vanderbilt	Wm. Knowles	R. W. Covey
1890—Geo. Miller	Lee O. Burch	Wm. Knowles	R. W. Covey
1891—Wm. M. Tyler	Lee O. Burch	Wm. H. Miller	Chas. Trumbull
1892—Wm. M. Tyler	Harry Hurley	I. A. Martin	A. Mills
1893—Wm. M. Tyler	Harry Hurley	I. A. Martin	A. Mills
1894—Geo. Miller	Harry Hurley	J. O. Imber	R. W. Covey
1895—Byron L. Mitchell	Harry Hurley	J. O. Imber	Ward C. Gruner
1896—Geo. Miller	Harry Hurley	J. F. Wanar	Ward C. Gruner
1897—C. L. Olds	Allie Hurley	Alvera Drumm	Cortes Pond
1898—C. L. Olds	Allie Hurley	Alvera Drumm	Wm. W. Green
1899—C. L. Olds	Allie Hurley	Seward Cleveland	Wm. W. Green
1900—C. L. Olds	Riley Bennett	Frank J. Barrell	Wm. W. Green
1901—Laselle C. Waite	Riley Bennett	Frank J. Barrell	H. K. Saunders
1902—Aaron O. Fox	Grove Tyler	G. W. Cleveland	Peter Manguse
1903—Aaron O. Fox	J. F. Wanar	G. W. Cleveland	Francis Moore
1904—Aaron O. Fox	J. F. Wanar	Wm. E. Gifford	Chas. A. Moore
1905—Geo. Cleveland	John M. Gray	Wm. E. Gifford	Chas. A. Moore
1906—Aaron O. Fox	Allie Hurley	C. Grove Tyler	Chas. A. Moore

Bethel Township.

	Supervisor	*Clerk*	*Treasurer*	*Highway Commissioner*
1837	Elijah Thomas	David M. Clark		Isaac Freeman
1838	Steph. McMillan	David Larmont		N. P. Filkins
1839	Steph. McMillan	John Proudfit	Otis Davis	N. P. Filkins
1840	Steph. McMillan	John Proudfit	Samuel Fowler	C. N. Bates
1841	Steph. McMillan	Jeremiah Holly	Samuel Fowler	Moses Olmsted
1842	Jeremiah Holly	John Proudfit	Milton Bessmer	Nathan'l Woodard
1843	Jeremiah Holly	John Proudfit	Milton Bessmer	Matt. H. Bigham
1844	Jeremiah Holly	John Proudfit	Nathan'l Woodard	Stephen McMillan
1845	Jeremiah Holly	Richard Saulsbury	Stephen McMillan	Willard Cranson
1846	Jeremiah Holly	Samuel Keyes	George Gallap	Willard Cranson
1847	Jeremiah Holly	Samuel Keyes	Timothy Colby	Charles Webb
1848	James Bennie	Wm. Lamoreaux	Timothy Colby	Guy E. Bennett
1849	James Bennie	Wm. Lamoreaux	Timothy Colby	Jas. G. Richardson
1850	Jeremiah Holly	Ransom Compton	Parm. A. Cranson	Lyman M. Hart
1851	Wm. Lamoreaux	C. W. Weatherby	Parm. A. Cranson	James Bennie
1852	Wm. Lamoreaux	P. A. Cranson	Ros. P. Larabee	John Carter
1853	Wm. Lamoreaux	P. A. Cranson	R. P. Larabee	James Gallap
1854	Wm. Lamoreaux	P. A. Cranson	R. P. Larabee	John Freeman
1855	C. W. Weatherby	W. T. Ammerman	R. P. Larabee	J. R. Brown
1856	Ros. P. Larabee	W. T. Ammerman	A. W. Plumley	James Bennie
1857	R. P. Larabee	W. T. Ammerman	James Gallap	Henry Bowker
1858	N. G. Ellis	M. F. Giddings	John Carter	Arvin Bates
1859	W.T.Ammerman	M. F. Giddings	W. Van Orman	Cornelius Freeman
1860	W.T.Ammerman	James Gallap	R. P. Larabee	George Smith
1861	W.T.Ammerman	Jas. H. Rippey	John Freeman	Heman Harris
1862	R. P. Larabee	M. F. Giddings	John Webb	Asa Cranson
1863	Thos. Goodrich	M. F. Giddings	Julius L. Hart	Major Tuttle
1864	W.T.Ammerman	M. F. Giddings	Julius L. Hart	George W. Webb
1865	Dav. Stephenson	M. F. Giddings	Jno. H. Thompson	P. A. Cranson
1866	Chris. G. Babcock	James Gallap	Albert Hart	Dav. L. Lockwood
1867	W.T.Ammerman	James Gallap	Luman W. Harris	W. A. Chamberlain
1868	W.T.Ammerman	James Gallap	J. L. Hart	Chas. F. Housman
1869	W.T.Ammerman	James Gallap	Geo. W. Joels, Jr.	Geo. M. White
1870	Nathaniel Piatt	James Gallap	G. W. Joels, Jr.	Perry H. Bower
1871	James Gallap	Edwin G. Wheeler	J. L. Hart	George H. Hart
1872	Nathaniel Piatt	James Gallap	J. L. Hart	Josiah Walker
1873	Nathaniel Piatt	James Gallap	Charles Allen	P. A. Cranson
1874	Luman Lampman	James Gallap	Charles Allen	Edward Odren
1875	Luman Lampman	Wm. G. Thurber	Henry Fowler	Oral Cramton
1876	Luman Lampman	W. G. Thurber	Edgar A. Miner	John Freeman
1877	Rich'd T. Martin	James Gallap	Edgar A. Miner	John Freeman
1878	Luman Lampman	Wm. G. Thurber	Edgar A. Miner	Benj. Pond
1879	Luman Lampman	W. G. Thurber	Brazil Short	Benj. Pond
1880	Luman Lampman	W. G. Thurber	Brazil Short	Judson Sweeting
1881	Monroe Selby	C. H. Woodcox	Chas. Bradway	H. H. Smith
1882	Monroe Selby	B. B. Gorman	Chas. Bradway	H. H. Smith
1883	Timothy Hurley	W. G. Thurber	Edgar A. Miner	John M. Carter
1884	S. M. Parham	B. B. Gorman	Edgar A. Miner	Wm. Short

1885—B. B. Gorman	Cortes Pond	Philo D. Smith	Henry Bronson
1886—B. B. Gorman	E. A. Miner	Philo D. Smith	John Kanouse
1887—B. B. Gorman	G. O. Gallup	Wm. B. Wheeler	W. J. Bucklin
1888—B. B. Gorman	G. O. Gallup	Wm. B. Wheeler	
1889—Harry Smith	G. O. Gallup	Frank Sharp	W. J. Bucklin
1890—Harry Smith	G. O. Gallup	Frank Sharp	James Burke
1891—Hiram H. Smith	R. H. Larabee	Oscar S. Martin	James Burke
1892—Hiram H. Smith	R. H. Larabee	Oscar S. Martin	Frank H. Hart
1893—A. E. Ammerman	G. E. Lobdell	Henry L. Goss	Elmer Webb
1894—Sam. M. Parham	E. A. Miner	C. C. Fenner	Elmer Webb
1895—Sam. M. Parham	E. A. Miner	C. C. Fenner	Geo. H. Williams
1896—Sam. M. Parham	E. A. Miner	Eddie Keyes	Geo. H. Williams
1897—Sam. M. Parham	C. N. Cure	Eddie Keyes	Geo. H. Williams
1898—Chas. C. Fenner	C. N. Cure	Wells B. Hillyer	E. H. Walker
1899—			
1900—Chas. C. Fenner	Geo. H. Williams	Ernest Dart	Cortes Pond
1901—Chas. C. Fenner	Geo. H. Williams	Ernest Dart	Henry L. Goss
1902—Chas. W. Daniels	O. B. Wheeler	Henry Kaiser	Walt. Brocklebank
1903—Chas. C. Fenner	Chas. V. Crull	Geo. Kemp	Walt. Brocklebank
1904—Chas. C. Fenner	Herbert Freeman	Geo. Kemp	Walt. Brocklebank
1905—Chas. C. Fenner	Herbert Freeman	Wm. C. Kanouse	Walt. Brocklebank
1906—Chas. C. Fenner	Roy G. Moore	Wm. C. Kanouse	Walt. Brocklebank

Bronson Township.

(Records up to and including 1867 were destroyed by fire.)

Supervisor	*Clerk*	*Treasurer*	*Highway Commissioner*
1868—Chris. G. Babcock	R. Van Ness	Leonard D. Clark	J. G. Sheffield
1869—Chris. G. Babcock	B .F. Trigg	Leonard D. Clark	M. Bloss
1870—Chris. G. Babcock			
1871—C. G. Babcock	Lucien D. Driggs	Cyrus J. Keyes	Allen Turner
1872—C. G. Babcock	Wales Adams	Cyrus J. Keyes	Michael Bloss
1873—C. G. Babcock	W. H. Compton	Cyrus J. Keyes	Geo. Carpenter
1874—C. G. Babcock	W. H. Compton	Cyrus J. Keyes	Allen Turner
1875—C. G. Babcock	W. H. Compton	Spencer E. Bennett	Albert Russell
1876—C. G. Babcock	W. H. Compton	Spencer E. Bennett	Amos J. Anderson
1877—C. G. Babcock	W. H. Compton	Spencer E. Bennett	Amos J. Anderson
1878—C. G. Babcock	W. H. Compton	Spencer E. Bennett	Henry Brown.
1879—Geo. W. Ellis	Wm. I. Beesmer	W. W. Earle	Henry Brown
1880—Geo. W. Ellis	Wm. I. Beesmer	W. W. Earle	Henry Brown
1881—Geo. W. Ellis	Wm. I. Beesmer	Spencer Bennett	John Taggart
1882—Geo. W. Ellis	Wm. I. Beesmer	Spencer Bennett	John Taggart
1883—Geo. W. Ellis	Wm. I. Beesmer	Lucius M. Leet	John Akers
1884—Geo. W. Ellis	Wm. I. Beesmer	Spencer Bennett	John Taggart
1885—Geo. W. Ellis	F. A. Keyes	Geo. W. Hanks	James P. Monroe
1886—Geo. W. Ellis	Alonzo Ruggles	Lucius M. Leet	John Taggart
1887—Geo. W. Ellis	Glenn D. Corey	C. B. Whittaker	John Taggart
1888—Geo. W. Ellis	Alonzo Ruggles	C. B. Whittaker	
1889—Geo. W. Ellis	Alonzo Ruggles	Ray Bennett	James E. Dorn
1890—John Taggart	Franklin Keyes	Ray Bennett	James E. Dorn
1891—John Taggart	Franklin Keyes	C. B. Whittaker	James E. Dorn
1892—John Taggart	Franklin Keyes	B. M. Fellows	James E. Dorn

1893—John Taggart	Franklin Keyes	B. M. Fellows	John Akers
1894—Wm. B. Bushnell	A. B. Clark	Roy Bennett	Volney Sweeting
1895—Wm. B. Bushnell	A. B. Clark	Eugene R. Clark	Volney Sweeting
1896—John Taggart	C. B. Whittaker	Eugene R. Clark	Volney Sweeting
1897—John Taggart	Chas. K. Bush	M. E. Dorn	James H. Shane
1898—John Taggart	Chas. K. Bush	Michael Doran	James H. Shane
1899—Wm. B. Bushnell	A. B. Clark	Chas. T. Cockle	John Reynolds
1900—Wm. B. Bushnell	James Swain	Chas. T. Cockle	Amasa Ruple
1901—J.E.Hoopingarner	J. M. Corson	John Finisy	J. M. Cavanaugh
1902—J.E.Hoopingarner	J. M. Corson	John Finisy	J. M. Cavanaugh
1903—J.E.Hoopingarner	J. M. Corson	F. J. Werner	J. M. Cavanaugh
1904—J.E.Hoopingarner	J. M. Corson	F. J. Werner	Jos. Sager
1905—J.E.Hoopingarner	F. J. Werner	Frank Flanders	Jos. Sager
1906—John Taggart	Andrew J. Keyes	James S. Davis	John Secor

Butler Township.

Supervisor	*Clerk*	*Treasurer*	*Highway Commissioner*
1839—David Lindsay	Asa R. Wisner	Thos. J. Rawson	H. S. Lampman
1840—Alan. D. Warren	Asa R. Wisner	Daniel Shook	Jacob Shook
1841—David Decker	T. J. Van Giesen	Daniel Shook	Jacob Shook
1842—Jacob Shook	Asa R. Wisner	Daniel Shook	
1843—Jesse Bowen	T. J. Van Giesen	Lawrence Decker	H. S. Lampman
1844—Jacob Shook	T. J. Van Giesen	Lawrence Decker	H. S. Lampman
1845—Jacob Shook	T. J. Van Giesen	Lawrence Decker	T. J. Rossman
1846—Jacob Shook	T. J. Van Giesen	Lawrence Decker	Duncan McIntosh
1847—Jesse Bowen	T. J. Van Giesen	Lawrence Decker	Milo White
1848—Jacob Shook	T. J. Van Giesen	Lawrence Decker	B. A. Rodgers
1849—Jacob Shook	E. Lampman	Lawrence Decker	Duncan McIntosh
1850—Jacob Shook	T. J. Van Giesen	Lawrence Decker	Daniel Shook
1851—Moses V. Calkins	Chas. E. Bowers	Lawrence Decker	John Hager
1852—Moses V. Calkins	Chas. E. Bowers	H. S. Lampman	
1853—Jesse Bowen	R. U. Floyd	H. S. Lampman	Milo White
1854—Jesse Bowen	Jos. M. Alexander	H. S. Lampman	John Hager
1855—Moses V. Calkins	Chas. E. Bowers	D. L. Burbank	
1856—M. V. Calkins	Chas. E. Bowers	D. L. Burbank	L. D. Ramsdell
1857—M. V. Calkins	Chas. E. Bowers	D. L. Burbank	William Rossman
1858—M. V. Calkins	Chas. E. Bowers	O. H. Hadlock	W. R. Kisson
1859—Jesse Bowen	R. U. Floyd	Jay Taylor	L. D. Ramsdell
1860—Jesse Bowen	M. V. Calkins	Jay Taylor	D. L. Burbank
1861—M. V. Calkins	Chas. W. Bennett	Jay Taylor	Chas. E. Bowers
1862—Chas. E. Bowers	R. U. Floyd	Jay Taylor	Lawrence Decker
1863—Chas. E. Bowers	Hiram H. Bennett	Jay Taylor	D. L. Burbank
1864—Chas. E. Bowers	Ira S. Lampman	Geo. W. Clark	Harlow Williams
1865—Barz. H. Calkins	Ira S. Lampman	J. A. Weatherwax	Thos. I. Edwards
1866—B. H. Calkins	Daniel Clark	F. M. Bissell	D. L. Burbank
1867—B. H. Calkins	Ira S. Lampman	A. B. LaFleur	
1868—B. H. Calkins	B. O. Moore	A. B. LaFleur	Thos. P. Evans
1869—Moses V. Calkins	B. O. Moore	A. B. LaFleur	D. L. Burbank
1870—A. Van Orthwick	B. O. Moore	A. B. LaFleur	Hiram Burlison
1871—A. Van Orthwick	John W. Henry	Jos. A. Bowen	Lawrence Decker
1872—A. Van Orthwick	Marcus M. Calkins	Jos. A. Bowen	Edward W. Perry

1873—B. H. Calkins	Marcus M. Calkins	Horace B. Powers	Edward W. Perry
1874—A. Van Orthwick	Thomas Sinclair	Horace B. Powers	Lawrence Decker
1875—Bradley O. Moore	Thomas Sinclair	J. E. Moore	Edward W. Perry
1876—John M. Davids	A. W. Eaton	J. E. Moore	John Bignold
1877—Bradley O. Moore	D. L. Burbank	J. E. Moore	A.A.VanOrthwick
1878—John M. Davids	Thomas Sinclair	J. E. Moore	Daniel Clark
1879—Brad. O. Moore	D. L. Burbank	J. A. Weatherwax	H. H. Bowers
1880—Robt. D. Murray	D. L. Burbank	Jared E. Moore	Lawrence Decker
1881—A. Van Orthwick	Thos. Sinclair	Jared E. Moore	Lawrence Decker
1882—A. Van Orthwick	W. H. Lockerby	J. A. Weatherwax	Chas. Chase
1883—A. Van Orthwick	Matthew Doris	Chas. Chivers	Daniel Clark
1884—A. Van Orthwick	Matthew Doris	Chas. Chivers	Chas. Chase
1885—A. Van Orthwick	Matthew Doris	Hiram Burleson	J. E. Hager
1886—A. Van Orthwick	W. H. Martin	Eugene Harris	
1887—Gilbert C. Clizbe	Matthew Doris	Chas. Lindsey	Thos. P. Evens
1888—A. Van Orthwick	Wm. H. Martin	B. O. Moore	
1889—Thos. Sinclair	Wm. H. Martin	Wm. R. Lott	Thos. P. Evens
1890—Thos. Sinclair	Jean Burleson	Wm. R. Lott	Thos. P. Evens
1891—Gilbert Clizbe	Jean Burleson	Warren Rose	R. McDonald
1892—Jean D. Burleson	C. McDonald	Warren Rose	R. McDonald
1893—Gilbert Clizbe	C. McDonald	Jean Burleson	Silas Craft
1894—J. Van Orthwick	F. C. Burbank	Fred Holmes	Mandvil Bissell
1895—J. Van Orthwick	F. C. Burbank	Fred Holmes	Mandvil Bissell
1896—J. Van Orthwick	C. W. Hayes	Henry Morrison	Thos. P. Evens
1897—Gilbert Clizbe	C. O. McDonald	J. F. Knapp	J. E. Hager
1898—Gilbert Clizbe	C. O. McDonald	J. F. Knapp	J. E. Hager
1899—Gilbert Clizbe	Fred L. Holmes	Henry Morrison	A. D. Van Patten
1900—Gilbert Clizbe	Fred L. Holmes	Frank Burbank	A. D. Van Patten
1901—Gilbert Clizbe	Marlan L. Henry	Frank Burbank	A. D. Van Patten
1902—Fred L. Holmes	J. D. Burleson	W. D. Rose	Cash Taylor
1903—Fred L. Holmes	Fay D. White	W. D. Rose	Thos. P. Evans
1904—Fred L. Holmes	Fay D. White	Lora M. Curtis	Thos. P. Evans
1905—Fred L. Holmes	Fay D. White	Nelson J. Curtis	Thos. P. Evans
1906—Jean D. Burleson	Fay D. White	Nelson J. Curtis	Thos. P. Evans

California Township.

Supervisor	*Clerk*	*Treasurer*	*Highway Commissioner*
1846—George Monlux	William Beach	Ira Purdy	Isaac M. Miner
1847—George Monlux	Joseph H. Hall	Ira Purdy	John V. Burt
1848—David Paul	Joseph H. Hall	Ira Purdy	Lester Broughton
1849—George Monlux	Hiram Ellis	Jos. H. Hall	Thos. H. Reynolds
1850—George Monlux	Hiram Ellis	Jos. H. Hall	Nathan Austin
1851—George Monlux	Wm. D. Merwin	Jos. H. Hall	Stephen Talmadge
1852—David Paul	Hiram Ellis	Jos. H. Hall	C. W. Lawrence
1853—David Paul	Joseph H. Hall	Ira Purdy	Wm. G. Thompson
1854—George Monlux	W. H. Lathrop	Ira Purdy	S. M. Talmadge
1855—David Paul	W. H. Lathrop	Ira Purdy	Norman Melendy
1856—David Paul	Henry Kelso	James Paul	Thos. Hall
1857—David Paul	H. N. Lawrence	James Hiscock	C. W. Lawrence
1858—Henry Kelso	Henry C. Wells	James Paul	Thos. H. Reynolds
1859—David Paul	Henry C. Wells	James Paul	Willard T. Ellis

1860—Harley H. Ellis	H. N. Lawrence	Ira Purdy	G. Withington
1861—Harley H. Ellis	H. N. Lawrence	Ira Purdy	Orrin Whitten
1862—Harley H. Ellis	David Paul	Ira Purdy	Jos. W. Lawrence
1863—Henry Kelso	Willard T. Ellis	Wm. Carithers	T. H. Reynolds
1864—Willard T. Ellis	Calvin I. Merwin	Wm. Carithers	Gilbert Gordinier
1865—Willard T. Ellis	Jas. N. Averill	Wm. Carithers	Jos. W. Lawrence
1866—David Paul	Jas. N. Averill	Robt. M. Cairns	Orrin Whitten
1867—John Paul	Jas. N. Averill	Robt. M. Cairns	Hugh McMurray
1868—John Paul	J. N. Averill	Robt. M. Cairns	Jeremiah Depue
1869—Dan. A. Douglass	Jas. N. Averill	R. M. Cairns	Orrin Whitten
1870—Dan. A. Douglass	J. N. Averill	Peter D. Gibson	Hugh McMurray
1871—John Paul, Jr.	M. N. Averill	Peter D. Gibson	Jos. W. Lawrence
1872—Henry Kelso	J. N. Averill	Wm. L. Monlux	Orrin Whitten
1873—Henry Kelso	Edw. P. Wallace	Wm. L. Monlux	Archibald Bates
1874—Edw. P. Wallace	M. D. Colvin	A. W. Bates	R. E. Comstock
1875—James N. Averill	John Paul, Jr.	R. M. Cairns	J. H. Lawrence
1876—J. N. Averill	John Paul, Jr.	R. M. Cairns	Alexander Vance
1877—James N. Averill	John Paul, Jr.	R. M. Cairns	E. B. Forbes
1878—Henry Kelso	Howard W. Miller	S. S. Lothridge	R. M. Cairns
1879—Robt. M. Cairns	S. W. Dickinson	S. S. Lothridge	Jeremiah Depue
1880—Robt. M. Cairns	S. W. Dickinson	John Paul	A. W. Bates
1881—John Paul	S. W. Dickinson	S. S. Lothridge	L. B. Brown
1882—Henry Kelso	Seth Averill	S. S. Lothridge	James Flynn
1883—John Paul	Andrew Dailey	Melvin Colvir	
1884—John Flynn	Wilson Paul	S. S. Lothridge	A. W. Bates
1885—John Flynn	Seth Averill	David Sharer	H. T. Reynolds
1886—John Flynn	Seth Averill	S. H. Lothridge	H. T. Reynolds
1887—John Flynn	W. A. Depue	S. H. Lothridge	H. T. Reynolds
1888—John Flynn	W. A. Depue	W. S. Paul	
1889—John Flynn	M. L. Clinesmith	R. M. Cairns	John Dunlap
1890—John Flynn	M. L. Clinesmith	John Dunlap	Robt. Kelso
1891—John Flynn	M. L. Clinesmith	Virgil Gallup	John Dunlap
1892—John Dunlap	S. J. Chestnut	A. C. Ayers	John Billman
1893—John Dunlap	S. F. Wilkinson	A. C. Ayers	Abram Reppert
1894—J. Hardenbrook	John Douglas	S. J. Chestnut	J. G. Billman
1895—J. Hardenbrook	John Douglas	F. C. Goodwin	D. T. Bascom
1896—W. S. Paul	T. C. Smith	Earl Dufur	Samuel Waters
1897—W. S. Paul	S. F. Wilkinson	Earl Dufur	Abram Reppert
1898—W. S. Paul	A. B. Dailey	A. C. Ayres	I. A. Adams
1899—W. S. Paul	A. B. Dailey	A. C. Ayres	Theron Thompson
1900—Geo. W. Paul	A. B. Dailey	Earl Dufur	Theron Thompson
1901—Geo. W. Paul	R. M. Cairns	A. C. Ayres	James Paul
1902—J. E. Lawrence			
1903—J. H. Sackett	John Douglas	J. W. Smith	Theron Thompson
1904—J. H. Sackett	Robt. M. Cairns	J. Hardenbrook	Robt. Kelso
1905—W. W. Poats	Robt. M. Cairns	Earl Dufur	W. D. Paul
1906—J. L. McMurray	D. T. Bascom	Wm. D. Paul	D. J. Goodrich

Gilead Township.

	Supervisor	*Clerk*	*Treasurer*	*Highway Commissioner*
1837	Abishi Sanders	Albert W. Glass		Daniel Marsh
1838	Abishi Sanders	Albert W. Glass		James Mills
1839	Abishi Sanders	Levi Sanders	Abishi Sanders	Jos. Freeman
1840	Abishi Sanders	Elsley W. Fuller	Abishi Sanders	Chester Adams
1841	Abishi Sanders	Emerson Marsh	Abishi Sanders	Leander Merrill
1842	Abishi Sanders	Emerson Marsh	William Purdy	David Green
1843	Jehiel H. Hard	William McClurg	William Purdy	Jos. Freeman
1844	Jehiel H. Hard	William McClurg	William Purdy	Daniel Marsh
1845	Jehiel H. Hard	William McClurg	William Purdy	James McWethy
1846	Daniel Marsh	William McClurg	William Purdy	Jesse Barrett
1847	Daniel Marsh	Elsley W. Fuller	Joseph Freeman	Benj. S. Wilkins
1848	Elsley W. Fuller	Lorenzo C. Hurd	Edward Webb	Joseph Keeslar
1849	John Marsh	Abishi Sanders	John Campbell	Simon Z. Williams
1850	John Marsh	Mitchell Birce	H. B. Williams	Isaac Adams
1851	John Marsh	Mitchell Birce	H. B. Williams	Johnston Ferguson
1852	Cyrus G. Luce	Benj. Sanders	David N. Green	Edward Webb
1853	David N. Green	Homer A. Loomis	John Whitcomb	Maj. D. Williams
1854	L. J. Whitcomb	Jared Fuller	Lorenzo C. Hurd	Isaac Adams
1855	Daniel Marsh	George J. Langs	Edward Webb	Benj. S. Wilkins
1856	H. B. Williams	Elijah Sanders	Joseph Keeslar	A. W. Miller
1857	Cyrus G. Luce	Eliab S. Hilton	Joseph Baker	George Mott
1858	Cyrus G. Luce	Eliab S. Hilton	Jared Fuller	Constant Voinett
1859	Edward Webb	Dwight C. Marsh	Jared Fuller	John Fuller
1860	Job A. Smith	Dwight C. Marsh	Benj. S. Wilkins	J. Ferguson
1861	Job A. Smith	Dwight C. Marsh	Benj. S. Wilkins	Virgil Little
1862	Job A. Smith	Dwight C. Marsh	Virgil Little	J. A. J. Metzger
1863	Cyrus G. Luce	R. Purdy	Virgil Little	Benj. S. Wilkins
1864	Cyrus G. Luce	Edward Purdy	Hugh W. Martin	Squire G. Beers
1865	Cyrus G. Luce	Robert Purdy	Hugh W. Martin	Daniel Marsh
1866	Lem. A. Graham	Robert Purdy	Hugh W. Martin	Virgil Little
1867	Albert A. Luce	Robert Purdy	Hugh W. Martin	Squire G. Beers
1868	George J. Langs	Robert Purdy	Hugh W. Martin	Job A. Smith
1869	George J. Langs	Robert Purdy	Wm. Keeslar	Geo. J. Langs
1870	George J. Langs	E. Purdy	Edward Webb, Jr.	Squire G. Beers
1871	George J. Langs	E. Purdy	Edward Webb, Jr.	Job A. Smith
1872	Jared Fuller	E. Purdy	Alex. R. Green	William Meek
1873	George J. Langs	E. Purdy	Alex. R. Green	Squire G. Beers
1874	Cyrus G. Luce	E. Purdy	Alex. R. Green	D. A. Thompson
1875	Cyrus G. Luce	E. Purdy	D. A. Thompson	Miles Wheeler
1876	Thomas Lazenby	Giles A. Bixler	D. A. Thompson	Hiram Brown
1877	Cyrus G. Luce	Giles A. Bixler	D. A. Thompson	C. H. Brooks
1878	Joseph Keeslar	George J. Langs	C. H. Brooks	Edw. M. Williams
1879	Cyrus G. Luce	Giles A. Bixler	C. H. Brooks	Miles Wheeler
1880	D. A. Thompson	Giles A. Bixler	J. B. Hughes	Miles Wheeler
1881	D. A. Thompson	J. B. Vandewater	C. H. Brooks	Miles Wheeler
1882	D. A. Thompson	J. B. Vandewater	C. H. Brooks	E. G. Luce
1883	J. R. Preston	M. R. Hoyt	L. S. Foglesong	M. J. Beck
1884	C. H. Brooks	C. T. Ward	L. S. Foglesong	M. J. Beck
1885	C. H. Brooks	C. T. Ward	Albert A. Luce	M. J. Beck

1886—C. H. Brooks	A. R. Bonney	Albert A. Luce	Allen Weaver
1887—Lester Marsh	A. R. Bonney	John Wilkins	M. J. Beck
1888—Lester Marsh	D. E. Williams	John Wilkins	
1889—Lester Marsh	L. S. Foglesong	E. G. Luce	C. H. Brooks
1890—Lester Marsh	L. S. Foglesong	E. G. Luce	C. H. Brooks
1891—Lester Marsh	L. S. Foglesong	Major McIntyre	C. H. Brooks
1892—Lester Marsh	L. S. Foglesong	Major McIntyre	C. H. Brooks
1893—C. G. Babcock	A. R. Bonney	D. E. Williams	Allen Weaver
1894—C. G. Babcock	A. R. Bonney	Major McIntyre	Richard Hillyer
1895—Harvey Ryan	Ethel B. Graham	Major McIntyre	Geo. O. Bixler
1896—C. G. Babcock	Albert A. Brown	G.B.Hoopingarner	John Beck
1897—D. E. Williams	Albert A. Brown	G.B.Hoopingarner	Geo. Hivelley
1898—D. E. Williams	Albert A. Brown	S. B. Duberdorf	Hugh Junk
1899—G. Hoopingarner	B. A. Wilkins	C. J. Keeslar	Geo. O. Bixler
1900—G. Hoopingarner	Ethelbert Graham	Jesse Sanders	Geo. O. Bixler
1901—G. Hoopingarner	Ethelbert Graham	Chas. Keeslar	Edward Steffey
1902—L. S. Foglesong	M. J. Merriman	G. N. Lazenby	Franklin Zull
1903—L. S. Foglesong	Jay Steffey	G. N. Lazenby	M. J. Merriman
1904—L. S. Foglesong	Jay Steffey	H. B. Taylor	Lycurgus Langs
1905—Emery G. Luce	Walter E. Garman	Edson Foster	Lycurgus Langs
1906—Emery G. Luce	Walter E. Garman	Edson Foster	Franklin Zull

Girard Township.

Supervisor	*Clerk*	*Treasurer*	*Highway Commissioner*
1834—Jas. B. Tompkins	Joseph C. Corbus		Benj. H. Smith
1835—Jas. B. Tompkins	Joseph C. Corbus		Nathan Sargent
1836—Jas. B. Tompkins	J. C. Corbus		Harris Aldrich
1837—Jas. B. Tompkins	Aura Smith		A. N. Bradley
1838—Jas. B. Tompkins	Joseph C. Corbus		Jos. Van Blarcom
1839—Martin Barnhart	J. C. Corbus	S. L. Lawrence	S. L. Lawrence
1840—J. B. Tompkins	Peter I. Mann	Mason Chase	J. B. Tompkins
1841—J. B. Tompkins	Aura Smith	Mason Chase	J. B. Tompkins
1842—J. B. Tompkins	Daniel T. Olney	Aura Smith	John H. Clement
1843—J. B. Tompkins	J. C. Corbus	Aura Smith	
1844—J. B. Tompkins	J. C. Corbus	Robert Rowley	John H. Clement
1845—J. B. Tompkins	J. C. Corbus	Robert Rowley	Levi Butler
1846—Robert Barnhart	J. C. Corbus	Harv. L. Worden	Philander Gould
1847—Elias Gage	Daniel T. Olney	Moses Tompkins	J. C. Corbus
1848—J. B. Tompkins	Peter I. Mann	Aura Smith	Abram Tompkins
1849—Sol. L. Lawrence	J. C. Corbus	Aura Smith	Danl. Cornell, Jr.
1850—Aura Smith	J. C. Corbus	Moses Tompkins	Rodney O. Smith
1851—J. B. Tompkins	J. C. Corbus	Aura Smith	Abram Tompkins
1852—Aura Smith	J. C. Corbus	Joseph Hudson	James Spencer
1853—Aura Smith	J. C. Corbus	Stephen D. Rainier	Robert Gorball
1854—Aura Smith	Jeremiah Harding	David Chauncey	Edwin Wheeler
1855—Aura Smith	Jedediah Tompkins	Geo. B. Johnson	Ira Markham
1856—J. B. Tompkins	S. B. Corbus	Asa Perry	Wm. Babcock
1857—J. B. Tompkins	Charles H. Burr	Michael Shannon	John H. Clement
1858—J. B. Tompkins	A. R. Day	Jed. Tompkins	Rodney O. Smith
1859—Ambrose Baldwin	Philander George	Michael Shannon	Backus Fox
1860—Aura Smith	Philander George	Michael Shannon	Backus Fox

1861—Aura Smith	Philander George	Michael Shannon	Ambrose Baldwin
1862—Enos T. Todd	Philander George	Michael Shannon	A. C. Shepardson
1863—Enos T. Todd	Philander George	Asa Williams	S. E. Spencer
1864—Enos T. Todd	A. J. Chauncey	Michael Shannon	Ambrose Baldwin
1865—Enos T. Todd	A. J. Chauncey	Michael Shannon	J. D. Smith
1866—J. C. Pierce	J. B. Williams	C. A. Tompkins	A. C. Shepardson
1867—J. D. Pierce	D. S. Van Blarcum	Sherman Osborn	Ambrose Baldwin
1868—Ambrose Baldwin	J. B. Williams	Jas. E. Perry	Sylv. E. Spencer
1869—G. W. Van Aken	J. B. Williams	J. E. Perry	A. C. Shepardson
1870—G. W. Van Aken	J. B. Williams	J. E. Perry	Ambrose Baldwin
1871—G. W. Van Aken	J. B. Williams	A. C. Williams	William Rose
1872—G. W. Van Aken	J. B. Williams	D. S. Van Blarcum	Durfee Barnhart
1873—G. W. Van Aken	J. B. Williams	Cassius H. Brown	Curtis Prentiss
1874—G. W. Van Aken	Perry E. Smith	S. E. Lawrence	P. C. Johnson
1875—G. W. Van Aken	James E. Perry	W. S. Van Blarcum	P. C. Johnson
1876—G. W. Van Aken	James E. Perry	W. S. Van Blarcum	P. C. Johnson
1877—G .W. Van Aken	J. B. Williams	J. E. Perry	P. C. Johnson
1878—G. W. Van Aken	J. E. Perry	W. S. Van Blarcum	Ira L. Nye
1879—G. W. Van Aken	James E. Perry	W. S. VanBlarcom	C. Prentice
1880—G. W. Van Aken	Wm. H. Perry	J. B. Williams	J. M. Walker
1881—G. W. Van Aken	Wm. H. Perry	J. B. Williams	J. M. Walker
1882—G. W. Van Aken	Jas. E. Perry	Geo. W. Jones	J. F. Hardick
1883—J. H. Davis	Jas. E. Perry	Geo. W. Jones	J. S. Bowers
1884—J. H. Davis	Jas. E. Perry	J. B. Williams	J. S. Bowers
1885—J. H. Davis	Giles Pintler	Jas. E. Perry	J. S. Bowers
1886—J. H. Davis	Giles Pintler	Jas. E. Perry	J. M. Walker
1887—J. H. Davis	Giles Pintler	F. J. Tompkins	J. M. Walker
1888—J. H. Davis	H. A. Lake	F. J. Tompkins	
1889—J. H. Davis	Hiram Lake	Artemus Taylor	J. M. Walker
1890—J. H. Davis	Hiram Lake	Artemus Taylor	E. J. Kingsley
1891—J. H. Davis	Hiram Lake	Amon Johnson	E. J. Kingsley
1892—J. H. Davis	Hiram Lake	Amon Johnson	J. S. Bowers
1893—G. H. Wagoner	Hiram Lake	Jacob Hardick	J. S. Bowers
1894—J. H. Davis	Jas. E. Perry	Jacob Hardick	W. M. Walker
1895—J. H. Davis	Jas. E. Perry	A. E. Thompson	W. M. Walker
1896—J. B. Williams	Jas. E. Perry	A. E. Thompson	W. M. Walker
1897—Frank L. Cox	Giles Pintler	Fred Paddock	John Gresley
1898—Frank L. Cox	Giles Pintler	Fred Paddock	John Gresley
1899—Frank L. Cox	Eugene Hall	Frank Johnson	John Gresley
1900—Frank L. Cox	Eugene Hall	Frank Johnson	John Gresley
1901—Frank L. Cox	Myron Bidwell	Stephen Parkinson	Clark Knauss
1902—Frank L. Cox	Myron Bidwell	Stephen Parkinson	Clark Knauss
1903—Frank L. Cox	Eugene Hall	Fred Bidwell	Clark Knauss
1904—Frank L. Cox	George Whitman	Glen Williams	Clark Knauss
1905—H. J. Morrison	George Whitman	Stephen Brewster	W. M. Barnes
1906—H. J. Morrison	George Whitman	Stephen Brewster	J. B. Tuckey

KINDERHOOK TOWNSHIP.

	Supervisor	*Clerk*	*Treasurer*	*Highway Commissioner*
1842	Oliver D. Colvin	George Tripp	Almeron W. Case	Bentley Reynolds
1843	George Tripp	William Chase	Almeron W. Case	George Tripp
1844	Oliver D. Colvin	William Chase	A. W. Case	Wm. Withington
1845	Oliver D. Colvin	William Chase	Luman Gibbs	A. Bonner
1846	Oliver D. Colvin	George Tripp	William Case	
1847	David Tripp	A. W. Case	Luman Gibbs	Luman Gibbs
1848	O. Burdick, Jr.	James H. Hugenen	Daniel Ent	Luman Gibbs
1849	David Tripp	George Tripp	Henry F. Huyck	Daniel Ent
1850	Oliver Burdick	George Tripp	Henry Huyck	L. J. Gibbs
1851	O. Burdick, Jr.	W. Waterhouse, Jr.	Wm. Chase	Oliver Burdick
1852	Oliver Burdick	William Chase	Joel D. Lindsay	David Tripp
1853	Oliver Burdick	William Chase	Almeron W. Case	Daniel Tripp
1854	David Tripp	William Chase	A. W. Case	David Tripp
1855	Oliver Burdick	William Chase	A. W. Case	David Kipp
1856	David Tripp	William Chase	J. Waterhouse, Sr.	Alfred S. Bates
1857	William Chase	David Tripp	J. Waterhouse, Sr.	Peter Grice
1858	William Chase	Farmer Gaff	J. Waterhouse, Sr.	Alfred S. Bates
1859	William Chase	George Tripp	Daniel Hoyt	Alfred S. Bates
1860	William Chase	George Tripp	Daniel Hoyt	John W. Stokes
1861	S. Hungerford	Z. G. Osborn	William Walters	Hiram Norton
1862	George Tripp	Z. G. Osborn	William Walters	John Campbell
1863	George Tripp	William Chase	Noah H. Jones	L. B. Brown
1864	William Chase	Zelotes G. Osborn	Noah H. Jones	L. B. Brown
1865	William Chase	Z. G. Osborn	Noah H. Jones	Noah Jones
1866	William Chase	Amos Flint	James Richey	Marvin C. Munger
1867	William Chase	Amos Flint	James Richey	W. Sweetland
1868	Amos Flint	James Richey	Z. G. Osborn	Chas. Alexander
1869	Amos Flint	James Richey	Z. G. Osborn	Noah H. Jones
1870	Amos Flint	James Richey	Z. G. Osborn	Noah H. Jones
1871	Amos Flint	William Chase	Wallace Clark	A. D. Bonner
1872	Z. G. Osborn	William Chase	Wallace Clark	Lindley Gripman
1873	Z. G. Osborn	William Chase	Wallace Clark	Hiram Adams
1874	Enos Michael	James Richey	Wallace Clark	Charles Richey
1875	(No record)			
1876	Z. G. Osborn	James Richey	Wallace Clark	Alva Jones
1877	Z. G. Osborn	James Richey	Wallace Clark	Noah H. Jones
1878	Z. G. Osborn	James Richey	Samuel Knauss	Abraham Walter
1879	Z. G. Osborn	James Richey	Samuel Knauss	Abraham Walter
1880	Z. G. Osborn	James Richey	Rollin Flint	Samuel Knauss
1881	James Richey	James Conklin	Rollin Flint	Abraham Walter
1882	James Richey	Adna Chase	Wm. H. Mott	Martin Upp
1883	James Richey	Adna Chase	Rollin Flint	Noah Jones
1884	James Richey	James Conklin	Samuel Knauss	Noah Jones
1885	James Richey	James Conklin	A. C. Bradley	Elza Branyan
1886	James Richey	James Conklin	A. C. Bradley	Alva Jones
1887	James Richey	Jas. D. Mosher	Uriah Gripman	Alva Jones
1888	James Richey	Jas. D. Mosher	Uriah Gripman	
1889	James Richey	Jas. D. Mosher	Fred Conklin	Jas. Conklin
1890	James Richey	Jas. D. Mosher	Fred Conklin	Jas. Conklin

1891—James Richey	Jas. D. Mosher	Samuel Knauss	Alva Jones
1892—James Richey	Jas. D. Mosher	Samuel Knauss	A. C. Bradley
1893—James Richey	Edgar Conklin	James Hoyt	A. C. Bradley
1894—James Richey	Edgar Conklin	James Hoyt	A. C. Bradley
1895—Martin L. Upp	Edgar Conklin	Jesse C. Brown	A. G. Barrick
1896—Martin L. Upp	Edgar Conklin	James Ogden	A. G. Barrick
1897—Martin L. Upp	John Sheets	James Ogden	Sherman Jones
1898—James S. Ogden	John Sheets	Henry Knauss	Arthur Clearwater
1899—James S. Ogden	D. E. Flint	L. K. Harding	Wm. Miller
1900—James S. Ogden	Fenton Flint	L. K. Harding	Benj. Michael
1901—Martin L. Upp	James H. Hoyt	W. S. Hilton	William Miller
1902—Martin L. Upp	James H. Hoyt	John Breghm	William Miller
1903—Martin L. Upp	James H. Hoyt	John Breghm	William Miller
1904—Martin L. Upp	James H. Hoyt	Chas. Smith	William Miller
1905—Lewis J. Corwin	Roll H. Hayden	Chas. Smith	William Miller
1906—Lewis J. Corwin	Roll H. Hayden	James S. Ogden	William Miller

MATTESON TOWNSHIP.

Supervisor	*Clerk*	*Treasurer*	*Highway Commissioner*
*1843—Hiram Gardner	Jonathan H. Culver	C. F. Jackson	Benjamin Fisk
1844—J. H. Culver	Jas. O. Johnson	C. F. Jackson	Jacob Lindley
1845—Hiram Gardner	John Gray	C. F. Jackson	James E. Fisk
1846—Hiram Gardner	James E. Fisk	J. H. Culver	Jacob Saibry
1847—James E. Fisk	Sam'l E. Faxon	Jesse Monroe	Abraham Lowry
1848—James E. Fisk	Robert Watson	A. G. Thompson	J. F. Dunbar
1849—James E. Fisk	Robert Watson	A. G. Thompson	Ervin C. Fisk
1850—Hiram Gardner	Robert Watson	A. G. Thompson	Bentley Benedict
1851—Allen Turner	S. E. Faxon	Chas. F. Jackson	Jacob L. Everhart
1852—James E. Fisk	Joel H. Legg	Chas. F. Jackson	Jacob Liter
1853—J. H. Culver	James E. Fisk	John W. Turner	J. S. Hunt
1854—J. H. Culver	James E. Fisk	John W. Turner	Francis Reynolds
1855—J. E. Fisk	Sam'l H. Beach	Jacob L. Everhart	Nelson Bradley
1856—J. H. Culver	R. E. Copeland	C. C. Bennett	C. Thompson
1857—David Anderson	Edwin S. Faxon	A. H. Corson	A. J. Richardson
1858—David Anderson	Allen Turner	Ashley Turner	J. L. Everhart
1859—David Anderson	E. S. Faxon	Bentley Benedict	Lyman K. Lewis
1860—J. H. Culver	C. M. Benedict	Israel Wheeler	S. B. Corson
1861—G. S. Burnett	Morris Howe	John P. Fisk	J. L. Everhart
1862—J. H. Culver	Morris Howe	Derrick Corson	C. A. Dufoe
1863—A. J. Richardson	Morris Howe	Robt. E. Copeland	Saml. B. Corson
1864—G. S. Burnett	Morris Howe	Derrick Corson	J. L. Everhart
1865—Derrick Corson	Orrin F. Oliver	Robt. E. Copeland	John P. Fisk
1866—Derrick Corson	Morris Howe	Robt. E. Copeland	Francis Reynolds
1867—Derrick Corson	Morris Howe	Robt. E. Copeland	J. L. Everhart
1868—G. S. Burnett	Sam'l B. Corson	Robt. E. Copeland	Jas. O. Johnson
1869—J. H. Culver	Edwin S. Faxon	R. E. Copeland	Alex. Anderson
1870—Sam'l B. Corson	Manton E. Swains	R. E. Copeland	J. L. Everhart
1871—Amos Gardner	Labert E. Fisk	Geo. W. Fulton	Jas. O. Johnson
1872—Amos Gardner	Albert D. Fisk	Geo. W. Fulton	Alex. Anderson
1873—Amos Gardner	Albert D. Fisk	Fritz Shaffmaster	George Keyes

*Early records missing.

1874—Amos Gardner	David Shimmel	Daniel F. Rich	J. O. Johnson
1875—Amos Gardner	A. D. Fisk	Daniel F. Rich	George Keyes
1876—Amos Gardner	Geo. W. Fulton	Daniel F. Rich	George Keyes
1877—S. W. Sharrer	G. W. Fulton	Daniel F. Rich	George Keyes
1878—Amos Gardner	Oliver B. Culver	A. G. Copeland	C. C. Bennett
1879—Chris. Bennett	Oliver Culver	John V. Allen	Alphonso Judd
1880—Amos Gardner	Oliver Culver	Daniel Rich	William Miller
1881—D. F. Rich	Calvin Beers	Oscar Whitmore	William Miller
1882—D. F. Rich	Calvin Beers	James N. Fisk	Edwin Nash
1883—O. B. Culver	Wm. Anderson	Alphonso Judd	Robt. Copeland
1884—Amos Gardner	Calvin Beers	James N. Fisk	C. C. Van Vorst
1885—C. C. Van Vorst	Calvin Beers	Wm. Baxter	Geo. Keyes
1886—O. B. Culver	Calvin Beers	Henry Eberhard	Geo. Keyes
1887—C. C. Bennett	Calvin Beers	Henry Eberhard	Geo. Keyes
1888—Henry Eberhard	Calvin Beers	Emery Warner	
1889—Henry Eberhard	Chas. Thompson	Emery Warner	Geo. Keyes
1890—Henry Eberhard	Chas. Thompson	Eugene Corson	Edwin Bennett
1891—Henry Eberhard	Oliver Culver	Frank Thomas	Edwin Bennett
1892—Henry Eberhard	A. C. Judd	Frank Thomas	Edwin Bennett
1893—Henry Eberhard	A. C. Judd	Edgar Snyder	Edwin Bennett
1894—C. M. Thompson	Jay Corson	Edgar Snyder	Edwin Bennett
1895—C. M. Thompson	Jay Corson	A. D. Hogoboom	Elliott Turner
1896—C. M. Thompson	Jay Corson	A. D. Hogoboom	Elliott Turner
1897—Henry Eberhard	A. C. Judd	Tom Turner	Edwin Bennett
1898—A. C. Judd	A. G. Copeland	Tom Turner	Edwin Bennett
1899—A. C. Judd	A. G. Copeland	Jas. Cunningham	Edwin Bennett
1900—A. C. Judd	A. G. Copeland	Leslie Bennett	Edwin Bennett
1901—A. C. Judd	A. G. Copeland	Chas. Mastin	L. J. James
1902—A. C. Judd	A. G. Copeland	Chas. Mastin	L. J. James
1903—A. C. Judd	Milton J. Bennett	Tom Turner	Chas. Mastin
1904—A. C. Judd	Milton J. Bennett	Tom Turner	J. H. Van Nuys
1905—A. C. Judd	Milton J. Bennett	Chas. Mastin	L. J. James
1906—A. C. Judd	Lee Copeland	John Carter	Dorius Gibbs

Noble Township.

Supervisor	*Clerk*	*Treasurer*	*Highway Commissioner*
1846—Ambrose Hale	William Butts	S. S. Bushnell	W. P. Patterson
1847—Ambrose Hale	William Butts	David Foster	Marvin Babcock
1848—Ambrose Hale	William Rippey	David Foster	C. Palmiter
1849—S. S. Bushnell	William Butts	David Foster	Joseph Smith
1850—Darwin Wilson	William Butts	James Sweeting	Egbert Caines
1851—Darwin Wilson	R. F. Kortright	S. S. Matthews	Peter Mallow
1852—Darwin Wilson	Erastus Crofoot	S. S. Bushnell	J. H. Smith
1853—S. S. Bushnell	D. S. Crofoot	Levi Calhoun	John Fuller
1854—Darwin Wilson	William Rippey	Levi Calhoun	Jacob Trayer
1855—S. S. Bushnell	Jeremiah Smith	Levi Calhoun	Geo. C. Worden
1856—William Rippey	Marshall Morrill		John Fuller
1857—William Rippey	Milton Humphrey	Levi Calhoun	John Trayer
1858—Jeremiah Shane	Wm. S. Willer	Wm. Rippey	Jeremiah Smith
1859—Levi Calhoun	William Rippey	Culbert R. Smith	C. W. Flanders
1860—William Rippey	Horace P. Jeffrey	Chester E. Porter	David Link

1861—E. T. Gardner	Wm. S. Willer	Wm. Patten	Jacob Trayer
1862—William Rippey	Wm. S. Willer	Wm. Patten	John Lane
1863—William Rippey	Wm. S. Willer	Culbert R. Smith	David Link
1864—William Rippey	W. S. Willer	Culbert R. Smith	Andrew Boyier
1865—Elisha T. Gardner	Wm. S. Willer	Andrew Boyier	Uriah Ruthroff
1866—Elisha T. Gardner	W. S. Willer	John Swain	Jacob Trayer
1867—Elisha T. Gardner	John Kisler	John Swain	David Blanchard
1868—S. W. Sharp	John Snyder	David Blanchard	John Swain
1869—Elisha T. Gardner	John Snyder	John Fuller	Edgar A. Ward
1870—Elisha T. Gardner	Culbert R. Smith	John Fuller	David Blanchard
1871—Elisha T. Gardner	John Snyder	John Fuller	Corydon Sharp
1872—(No record)			
1873—G. P. Robinson	John Swain	Corydon Sharp	Edward Cummins
1874—G. P. Robinson	John Swain	Thos. J. Link	David Link
1875—Horace P. Jeffrey	John Swain	Thos. J. Link	David Link
1876—Horace P. Jeffrey	John Swain	Thos. J. Link	David Link
1877—Horace P. Jeffrey	John Swain	Thos. J. Link	David Link
1878—Horace P. Jeffrey	Frank H. Lane	John Snyder	William Mallow
1879—H. P. Jeffrey	Frank Lane	John Snyder	Wm. Mallow
1880—H. P. Jeffrey	Frank Lane	John Fuller	Wm. Mallow
1881—H. P. Jeffrey	Frank Lane	Wm. Binkley	Wm. Weaver
1882—H. J. Jeffrey	John Snyder	Wm. Binkley	R. L. Whipple
1883—Wm. Binkley	John Snyder	Augustus Weller	Wm. Mallow
1884—Wm. Binkley	John Snyder	A. O'Willer	Wm. Mallow
1885—Wm. Binkley	J. B. Keeslar	C. R. Smith	Wm. Mallow
1886—H. P. Jeffrey	J. B. Keeslar	C. R. Smith	Wm. Mallow
1887—I. P. Morrill	C. W. Brooks	T. J. Link	A. Lilly
1888—I. P. Morrill	C. W. Brooks	T. J. Link	
1889—C. K. Nofsinger	C. W. Brooks	John Swain	Frank Grove
1890—C. K. Nofsinger	Wm. H. Grove	John Swain	F. N. Grove
1891—C. K. Nofsinger	Wm. H. Grove	Edmund Quick	Alfred Lilly
1892—C. K. Nofsinger	Wm. H. Grove	Edmund Quick	F. N. Grove
1893—C. K. Nofsinger	Wm. H. Grove	Melvin Lupold	Edmund Quick
1894—Edmund Quick	Wm. H. Grove	Melvin Lupold	Jos. Steffey
1895—Edmund Quick	Wm. H. Grove	John Zinn	Jos. Steffey
1896—David Binkley	Albert Quick	John Zinn	Jos. Steffey
1897—David Binkley	Albert Quick	Chas. Willer	Clint. Himebaugh
1898—A. Bushnell	Albert Quick	Chas. Willer	Clint. Himebaugh
1899—A. Bushnell	William Mock	Jos. Steffey	George Smith
1900—Charles Willer	Albert Quick	Jos. Steffey	George Smith
1901—Charles Willer	Albert Quick	George Smith	John Swain, Sr.
1902—A. Bushnell	Albert Quick	Ward Lyke	John Swain, Sr.
1903—Joseph Steffey	Albert Quick	Ward Lyke	David Binkley
1904—Joseph Steffey	Albert Quick	Peter Imhoff	David Binkley
1905—Elfred Smith	Ambrose Bushnell	Peter Imhoff	Lewis Burnside
1906—Elfred Smith	Geo. Stegmaier	G.W.Hoopingarner	Luther Burnside

Ovid Township.

Supervisor	*Clerk*	*Treasurer*	*Highway Commissioner*
1837—John Waterhouse			
1838—Joseph Rudd, Jr.	William Bockes		

1842—J. G. Brooks				
1843—J. G. Brooks				
1844—E. D. Corwin				
1845—E. D. Corwin				
1846—Daniel Wilson				
1847—Daniel Wilson				
1848—Daniel Wilson				
1849—E. D. Corwin				
1850—E. E. Corwin				
1851—Levi Wilson				
1852—E. D. Corwin				
1853—Daniel Wilson				
1854—Daniel Wilson	Levi Wilson			
1855—E. D. Corwin	G. W. Stevens			
1856—Levi Wilson	A. R. Bingham			
1857—Levi Wilson				
1858—Daniel Wilson				
1859—E. D. Corwin	A. R. Bingham			
1860—Jeremiah Cox				
1861—E. D. Corwin				
1862—Daniel Wilson	O. L. Davis			
1863—Daniel Wilson	O. L. Davis			
1864—Levi Wilson	O. L. Davis			
1865—Levi Wilson				
1866—Levi Wilson				
1867—Daniel Wilson				
1868—Sylvanus Wixon				
1869—Levi Wilson	George Abbott	Avis R. Bingham	Wm. F. Bingham	
1870—Henry B. George	Steven Ferguson	Thos. H. Heisrodt	Jas. H. Smith	
1871—David Wilson	Martin Kinsley	J. R. Wilson	Sylvanus Wixon	
1872—C. R. Whitehead	Martin Kinsley		Daniel Wilson	
1873—C. R. Whitehead	Martin Kinsley	Adelbert M. Fuller	W. N. Conover	
1874—C. R. Whitehead	Wallace E. Wright	A. M. Fuller	Wm. P. Morey	
1875—C. R. Whitehead	Wallace E. Wright	Chas. S. Wright	W. P. Morey	
1876—C. R. Whitehead	Wallace E. Wright	Chas. S. Wright	W. P. Morey	
1877—C. R. Whitehead	Henry B. George	Geo. H. Allen	Lewis C. Waldron	
1878—James R. Wilson	Rufus R. Harris	Geo. H. Allen	Lewis C. Waldron	
1879—Chas. Whitehead	Wallace Wright	Thos. Thompson	David Harris	
1880—Chas. Whitehead	E. A. Greenamyer	Geo. Allen	Levi Waldron	
1881—Chas. Whitehead	Rufus Harris	Geo. Allen	David Harris	
1882—Chas. Wright	Rufus Harris	Thos. Thompson	David Harris	
1883—Chas. Wright	Wallace Wright	Chas. Russell	Lewis Waldron	
1884—Chas. Wright	Wallace Wright	Chas. Russell	Nelson Russell	
1885—Jerome Corwin	E. A. Greenamyer	L. S. Daniels	W. F. Bingham	
1886—E. A. Greenamyer	W. F. Bingham	L. S. Daniels	J. H. Wilson	
1887—E. A. Greenamyer	W. F. Bingham	M. F. Hiesrodt	Nelson Russell	
1888—E. A. Greenamyer	W. F. Bingham	M. F. Hiesrodt		
1889—E. A. Greenamyer	W. F. Bingham	Wm. Armstrong	Milton Strobec	
1890—E. A. Greenamyer	Edwin R. Bates	Wm. Armstrong	Milton Strobec	
1891—E. A. Greenamyer	Edwin R. Bates	Fred Bidleman	Moses Kerns	
1892—E. A. Greenamyer	Edwin R. Bates	Fred Bidleman	Milton Strobec	

1893—Wm. F. Bingham	Edwin R. Bates	Berton Strong	Milton Strobec
1894—Wallace Wright	Edwin R. Bates	J. A. Greenamyer	Milton Strobec
1895—Wallace Wright	Edwin R. Bates	J. A. Greenamyer	Milton Strobec
1896—Wallace Wright	Edwin R. Bates	Wm. Sorter	Reuben Coleman
1897—Wallace Wright	Vernon Wright	Allison Howland	Reuben Coleman
1898—Wallace Wright	Fred Conklin	Julius Bates	Chas. Russell
1899—Wallace Wright	Fred Conklin	Julius Bates	L. S. Daniels
1900—Lewis Waldron	Fred Conklin	Harlow Dubendorf	J. Schumaker
1901—Edwin R. Bates	Albert Russell	Harlow Dubendorf	Walter Kenyon
1902—Edwin R. Bates	Albert Russell	Ivon Snyder	Walter Kenyon
1903—Edwin R. Bates	Albert Russell	Ivon Snyder	Walter Kenyon
1904—Edwin R. Bates	Chas. Waterbury	Walter Kenyon	W. H. Kerns
1905—Fred J. Conklin	Chas. Waterbury	Walter Kenyon	W. H. Kerns
1906—Fred J. Conklin	Chas. Waterbury	Judson Brown	Theodore Wood

Quincy Township.

Supervisor	*Clerk*	*Treasurer*	*Highway Commissioner*
1836—Enos G. Berry	David W. Baker		Jos. T. Burnham
1837—Enos G. Berry	David W. Baker		Israel R. Hall
1838—Enos G. Berry	Ellis Russell	John Broughton	James Adams
1839—James Adams	James G. Corbus	Joseph Berry	W. O. Campbell
1840—W. P. Arnold	James G. Corbus	Joseph Berry	Ansel Nichols
1841—W. P. Arnold	Alvarado Brown	Joseph Berry	George Boon
1842—W. P. Arnold	Alvarado Brown	Joseph Berry	George Boon
1843—W. P. Arnold	Alvarado Brown	Joseph Berry	Job H. Moore
1844—W. P. Arnold	Alvarado Brown	Joseph Berry	H. F. Babcock
1845—W. P. Arnold	Alvarado Brown	Joseph Berry	Lucas Joseph
1846—W. P. Arnold	Alvarado Brown	Jos. T. Burnham	Alfred Wilmarth
1847—W. P. Arnold	Daniel M. Thomas	Jos. T. Burnham	Lyman Cole
1848—W. P. Arnold	Daniel M. Thomas	Jos. T. Burnham	H. F. Babcock
1849—W. P. Arnold	D. M. Thomas	Ira Clizbe	R. N. T. Decker
1850—W. P. Arnold	John H. Edwards	Tim. Lockwood	Jas. E. Gould
1851—W. P. Arnold	Nathan B. Hewitt	Aaron McGinness	Deleven Tinkham
1852—W. P. Arnold	Nathan B. Hewitt	Aaron McGinness	John Broughton
1853—Lyman Cole	N. B. Hewitt	Jacob C. Boon	S. S. Lampman
1854—Lyman Cole	N. B. Hewitt	Daniel Williams	Geo. W. Chase
1855—P. M. Newberry	Moses A. Hewitt	Hosea J. Corbus	F. P. Williams
1856—Ebenezer Mudge	Benj. F. Clark	Otis Gager	Jos. S. Swan
1857—Wm. Newberry	Moses A. Hewitt	Milan M. Brown	Jos. T. Jones
1858—Wm. Newberry	Moses A. Hewitt	H. B. Edmonston	F. P. Williams
1859—Orrin M. Bowen	Julius J. Gregory	Jacob Weaver	Walton J. Barnes
1860—Orrin M. Bowen	Julius Gregory	H. W. Williams	Wm. Newberry
1861—Orrin M. Bowen	Milan M. Brown	Wm. P. Arnold	J. H. Withington
1862—Orrin M. Bowen	Milan M. Brown	Thos. N. Barnes	Nathan Swan
1863—John H. Jones	Milan M. Brown	Orlando F. Buell	Wm. Newberry
1864—John H. Jones	Milan M. Brown	W. P. Arnold	Wm. W. Culver
1865—John H. Jones	Moses A. Hewitt	Lyman Witter	Aaron W. Barber
1866—John H. Jones	Jay L. Taylor	Dan'l G. Williams	J. B. Wheeler
1867—W. P. Arnold	Daniel W. Sawyer	Lyman Witter	Geo. H. Lafleur
1868—W. P. Arnold	Daniel Sawyer	Zadoc C. Rose	Z. G. Swan
1869—John Sebring	Daniel W. Sawyer	Zadoc C. Rose	Rella M. Campbell

1870—H.B.Edmondston	Milan M. Brown	Guy E. Bennett	Wm. Harman
1871—W. P. Arnold	Alvarado Brown	Guy E. Bennett	Jacob Weaver
1872—John H. Jones	Daniel W. Sawyer	J. L. Taylor	R. M. Campbell
1873—John H. Jones	Daniel W. Sawyer	Zadoc C. Rose	R. A. Baggerly
1874—W. P. Arnold	D. W. Sawyer	Martin Hawley	Levi Swan
1875—W. P. Arnold	D. W. Sawyer	Zadoc C. Rose	P. M. Newberry
1876—W. P. Arnold	D. W. Sawyer	Zadoc C. Rose	R. K. Twaddle
1877—Jacob Kincaid	D. W. Sawyer	Almeron J. Wright	R. K. Twaddle
1878—Edson Blackman	D. W. Sawyer	Cyrus Wilcox	John R. Morey
1879—Milan M. Brown	Melvin S. Segur	Almon Lytle	Jacob Weaver
1880—Milan M. Brown	Melvin S. Segur	B. C. Mellen	M. M. Bailey
1881—Milan M. Brown	Melvin S. Segur	B. C. Mellen	M. M. Bailey
1882—Clark Sears	Melvin S. Segur	M. M. Bailey	Joseph Eldred
1883—Clark Sears	Melvin S. Segur	M. M. Bailey	Alfred Etheridge
1884—Elliston Warner	Melvin S. Segur	S. S. Leland	Alfred Etheridge
1885—Elliston Warner	Melvin S. Segur	S. S. Leland	Alfred Etheridge
1886—Elliston Warner	Melvin S. Segur	Hiram Bennett	Jacob Weaver
1887—Geo. Nivison	Melvin S. Segur	Henry Graves	John Mowry
1888—Edson Blackman	Melvin S. Segur	Ed. Troop	
1889—Edson Blackman	Henry Barnes	Edward Throop	S. W. Boynton
1890—John H. Jones	Henry Barnes	Wm. Thurber	S. W. Boynton
1891—John H. Jones	T. E. Marsh	Wm. Thurber	Alva Belote
1892—John H. Jones	T. E. Marsh, Jr.	James Haynes	Alva Belote
1893—Edson Blackman	Martin Greening	James Haynes	Chas. Parkinson
1894—Melvin S. Segur	Wm. Lennon	Carlton Wilcox	Albert Warner
1895—Melvin S. Segur	Wm. Lennon	Carlton Wilcox	Albert Warner
1896—Melvin S. Segur	Wm. Lennon	Thos. Rathburn	Albert Warner
1897—Melvin S. Segur	Wm. Lennon	Dewit C. Luse	J. F. Corey
1898—G. W. Dumphy	Lee O. Burch	Dewit C. Luse	J. F. Corey
1899—G. W. Dumphy	Lee O. Burch	Fred Powers	Chas. Parkinson
1900—Chisholm McKay	Clinton Joseph	Fred Powers	Chas. Parkinson
1901—Chisholm McKay	Arthur Massey	Fred Wagner	Chas. Parkinson
1902—Chisholm McKay	Arthur Massey	D. W. Houghtaling	Herbert Benge
1903—Chisholm McKay	Ruel D. Rawson	D. W. Houghtaling	John Burns
1904—Chisholm McKay	Ruel D. Rawson	Geo. Sanderson	Herbert Benge
1905—Chisholm McKay	J. P. McConnell	Geo. Sanderson	Jared Swan
1906—Chisholm McKay	Chas. W. Owen	D. W. Houghtaling	Jared Swan

Sherwood Township.

Supervisor	*Clerk*	*Treasurer*	*Highway Commissioner*
1855—Lorenzo Little	A. E. Tomlinson	F. C. Watkins	Wilson McSpencer
1856—Isaac D. Beall	E. F. Hazen	Chester C. Doty	P. Clark
1857—Isaac D. Beall	E. F. Hazen	Chester C. Doty	Benj. F. Ferris
1858—David R. Cooley	E. F. Hazen	Jos. Failing	James Gwin
1859—James Antisdale	E. F. Hazen	Jos. Failing	Peletiah Clark
1860—James Antisdale	E. F. Hazen	S. W. Blackman	R. P. Coddington
1861—R. H. Williard	James Antisdale	E. F. Hazen	Benj. Blossom
1862—J. B. Haviland	Isaac D. Beall	Dan'l D. Riley	Lyman Studley
1863—Daniel D. Riley	Loring P. Wilcox	Lucien E. Rowe	M. Zimmerman
1864—Isaac D. Beall	Loring P. Wilcox	L. E. Rowe	Peletiah Clark

*Early records destroyed.

1865—Isaac D. Beall	L. P. Wilcox	Henry Bullock	John M. Lacey
1866—Henry L. Bisbee	L. P. Wilcox	Clark C. Lake	Edward Stanton
1867—Henry L. Bisbee	E. F. Hazen	Clark C. Lake	Burr Osborn
1868—Loring P.Wilcox	E. F. Hazen	Clark C. Lake	Jabin Gwin
1869—Loring P.Wilcox	Clark C. Lake	Horace O. Lee	Edward Stanton
1870—Loring P.Wilcox	Clark C. Lake	Horace O. Lee	Burr Osborn
1871—Loring P.Wilcox	Clark C. Lake	Horace O. Lee	Jabin Gwin
1872—James Gwin	Isaac D. Beall	Franklin H. Fisher	L. E. Rowe
1873—James Gwin	Robert Fraser	Frank Thoms	Clark C. Lake
1874—James Gwin	William Lehr	Frank Thoms	Jesse Gates
1875—Charles E. Swain	J. J. Studley	Marion C. Hazen	Jabin Gwin
1876—Charles E. Swain	Henry Sayers	Marion C. Hazen	Jesse Gates
1877—Charles E. Swain	Henry Sayers	Marion C. Hazen	Jesse Gates
1878—Charles H. Mann	Jerome Studley	Horace O. Lee	John Stafford
1879—Chas. H. Mann	Jerome Studley	John McIntyre	John Stafford
1880—Jesse Gates	C. E. Swain	Henry Locke	Henry Bisbee
1881—Jesse Gates	C. E. Swain	Henry Locke	H. B. Hazen
1882—Chas. Rathburn	Jerome Studley	David Spencer	John McIntyre
1883—Jesse Gates	Fred Greenlief	Chas. Sawin	Jabin Gwin
1884—Jesse Gates	L. P. Wilcox	Horace Barton	John Gwin
1885—Jesse Gates	L. P. Wilcox	P. J. Rathburn	Chas. Swain
1886—Jesse Gates	L. P. Wilcox	P. J. Rathburn	Wesley Leckner
1887—Jesse Gates	Frank Swain	C. D. Rathburn	Orrin Pierce
1888—Jesse Gates	J. F. Williams	C. D. Rathburn	
1889—Jesse Gates	S. K. Thurston	G. H. Seymour	P. J. Rathburn
1890—J. T. Russell	O. S. Bathrick	D. L. Billings	Wm. Davis
1891—Jesse Gates	C. E. Swain	George Hass	Orrin Pierce
1892—Jesse Gates	C. E. Swain	George Hass	Orrin Pierce
1893—Jesse Gates	L. P. Wilcox	S. K. Thurston	Chas. Swain
1894—P. J. Rathburn	W. B. Chiesman	S. K. Thurston	Edward Watkins
1895—P. J. Rathburn	W. B. Chiesman	Geo. Seymour	A. R. Klose
1896—P. J. Rathburn	Hiram Fonner	Geo. Seymour	Francis Daniels
1897—P. J. Rathburn	Frank Hicks	Chas. Rathburn	Wilson Gates
1898—P. J. Rathburn	Frank Hicks	Frank Hodge	Wilson Gates
1899—P. J. Rathburn	Frank Hicks	Frank Hodge	Wilson Gates
1900—P. J. Rathburn	A. W. Morris	E. W. Watkins	George Haas
1901—P. J. Rathburn	Clark Wilcox	E. W. Watkins	G. E. Kilbourne
1902—P. J. Rathburn	James Swain	O. F. Thornton	G. E. Kilbourne
1903—P. J. Rathburn	Earl H. Warner	O. F. Thornton	G. E. Kilbourne
1904—P. J. Rathburn	Earl H. Warner	F. M. Daniels	C. W. Kirby
1905—P. J. Rathburn	Earl H. Warner	F. M. Daniels	Asahel Blackman
1906—P. J. Rathburn	Earl H. Warner	G. E. Kilbourn	Asahel Blackman

Union Township.

Supervisor	*Clerk*	*Treasurer*	*Highway Commissioner*
1838—Curtis S.Youngs	Chester Hammond	H. L. Mitchell	David Kilbourn
1839—Curtis S.Youngs	Chester Hammond	Carpenter Chaffee	Marlin Burnett
1840—Curtis S.Youngs	C. P. Benton	Carpenter Chaffee	B. Bartlett
1841—Hiram Marsh	C. P. Benton	Carpenter Chaffee	H. L. Mitchell
1842—Hiram Shoudler	C. P. Benton	Carpenter Chaffee	M. B. Barnhart
1843—C. P. Benton	Jos. C. Leonard	Carpenter Chaffee	J. W. Norton

1844—C. P. Benton	J. C. Leonard	Cassius A. Mills	Carpenter Chaffee
1845—Jos. C. Leonard	H. N. Blakeman	Dr. W. P. Hurd	H. L. Mitchell
1846—Hiram Shoudler	C. S. Youngs	Solomon Parsons	M. B. Barnhart
1847—J. C. Leonard	C. S. Youngs	Solomon Parsons	M. B. Barnhart
1848—M. B. Barnhart	Melvin L. Youngs	Carpenter Chaffee	George Strong
1849—J. C. Leonard	M. L. Youngs	Manna Olmsted	Hiram Richardson
1850—J. C. Leonard	M. L. Youngs	M. Burnett	Chas. A. Lincoln
1851—J. C. Leonard	M. L. Youngs	M. Burnett	Henry A. Kelso
1852—Lloyd H. Sims	M. L. Youngs	M. Burnett	Peter Grove
1853—Manna Olmsted	Jason L. Lee	M. Burnett	Silas H. Nye
1854—Manna Olmsted	John S. Youngs	M. Barnhart	Thos. B. Buell
1855—Silas H. Nye	Henry F. Ewers	L. G. Lincoln	Curtis Prentiss
1856—M. B. Barnhart	Geo. T. Moseley	Bishop Burnett	Martin Knowles
1857—Manna Olmsted	Geo. W. Shelmire	C. A. Seymour	T. B. Buell
1858—Ezra Bostwick	G. W. Shelmire	C. A. Seymour	Truman Olds
1859—Cyrus H. Nye	G. W. Shelmire	C. A. Seymour	Darius Buell
1860—Truman Olds	G. W. Shelmire	C. A. Seymour	Benj. Nelson
1861—Curtis S. Youngs	J. G. Parkhurst	William Drumm	J. R. Vosburg
1862—LeRoy Judd	G. W. Shelmire	William Drumm	Darius Buell
1863—LeRoy Judd	J. G. Parkhurst	William Drumm	Benj. Nelson
1864—LeRoy Judd	James T. Leonard	William Drumm	J. R. Vosburg
1865—LeRoy Judd	James T. Leonard	Henry C. Morse	S. H. Nye
1866—Ezra Bostwick	C. W. Saunders	H. C. Morse	Benj. Nelson
1867—J. D. Ackerman	C. W. Saunders	H. C. Morse	
1868—J. D. Ackerman	C. W. Saunders	L. G. Lincoln	
1869—J. D. Ackerman	C. W. Saunders	L. G. Lincoln	
1870—J. D. Ackerman	Estas McDonald	L. G. Lincoln	Chas. A. Lincoln
1871—J. D. Ackerman	Estas McDonald	Wm. C. Smith	S. H. Nye
1872—B. L. Mitchell	Estas McDonald	W. C. Smith	Darius Buell
1873—B. L. Mitchell	D. J. Easton	C. W. Saunders	Parker Haner
1874—L. Rheubottom	R. F. Watkins	C. W. Saunders	Sylvester Feller
1875—Mort. Vosburg	Hiram H. Chase	Samuel Wilbur	S. Feller
1876—Mort. Vosburg	H. H. Chase	Samuel Wilbur	S. Feller
1877—Mort. Vosburg	H. H. Chase	Samuel Wilbur	S. Feller
1878—Jas. D. Studley	H. H. Chase	Samuel Wilbur	S. Feller
1879—Martin F. Buell	J. Willis Spencer	W. Milton Lee	Burr Osborn
1880—Joseph McCausey	J. Willis Spencer	W. Milton Lee	Thos. Buell
1881—Joseph McCausey	J. Willis Spencer	Henry Seymour	James Vosburg
1882—Joseph McCausey	Mortimer Vosburg	Henry Seymour	Hiram Olmsted
1883—Mort. Vosburg	Geo. E. Smith	Marshall Maxon	Hiram Olmsted
1884—L. Rheubottom	George Styles	Marshall Maxon	John Johnson
1885—Henry Seymour	George Styles	Henry Corbin	John Johnson
1886—Henry Seymour	Mort. Vosburgh	Geo. Whiting	John Johnson
1887—I. E. Hitchcock	Mort. Vosburgh	Geo. Whiting	John Johnson
1888—Henry Seymour	John Nesbitt	Chas. Stafford	
1889—Henry Seymour	John S. Nesbitt	Chas. Stafford	John Johnson
1890—E. E. Bostwick	Mort. Vosburgh	Geo. Whiting	Chas. Barnhart
1891—Henry Seymour	Mort. Vosburgh	Chas. Stafford	Chas. Burnett
1892—Henry Seymour	Mort. Vosburgh	Chas. Stafford	Chas. Burnett
1893—Henry Seymour	Mort. Vosburgh	Seneca Perry	Erwin Fellers
1894—Henry Seymour	Mort. Vosburgh	Seneca Perry	Chas. Burnett

1895—Henry Seymour	Mort. Vosburgh	Lean A. Johnson	Chas. Burnett
1896—Henry Seymour	Mort. Vosburgh	Lean A. Johnson	James Cosier
1897—Henry Seymour	Mort. Vosburgh	Lyndz Johnson	James Cosier
1898—Henry Seymour	Mort. Vosburgh	Lyndz Johnson	James Cosier
1899—			
1900—Albert Geer	Leo L. Johnson	Geo. Whiting	J. M. Cosier
1901—Albert Geer	Mort. Vosburgh	Wm. Rupright	Chas. Zimmerman
1902—Albert Geer	Mort. Vosburgh	Wm. Rupright	Chas. Zimmerman
1903—Albert Geer	Mort. Vosburgh	Chas. Lowell	Chas. Zimmerman
1904—Albert Geer	Mort. Vosburgh	Chas. Lowell	Chas. Zimmerman
1905—Leon A. Johnson	Mort. Vosburgh	John S. Nesbitt	Chas. Zimmerman
1906—Leon A. Johnson	Mort. Vosburgh	John S. Nesbitt	Chas. Zimmerman

Coldwater Township.

Supervisor	*Clerk*	*Treasurer*	*Highway Commissioner*
1833—S. A. Holbrook	J. C. Corbus	Robt. J. Cross	Jas. B. Tompkins
1834—Jas. B. Stewart	Wm. H. Cross	S. L. Bingham	John Wilson
1835—Matthew Brink	W. H. Cross	S. L. Bingham	W. P. Arnold
1836—Allen Tibbits	W. B. Sprague	Edward Paxton	John Wilson
1837—William H. Cross	Hiram Shoudler	Philo H. Crippen	Edward Paxton
1838—	E. A. Warner		
1839—R. J. Champion	Edw. A. Warner	S. A. Holbrook	James Shoecraft
1840—Jared Pond	E. A. Warner	Wm. McCarty	Elijah Ferguson
1841—Elijah Ferguson	Henry Lockwood	James Fisk	Jos. H. Moss
1842—D. C. Ransom	Clark Williams	Jos. Shoecraft	Reuben Whitehead
1843—Henry Lockwood	Geo. A. Coe	Harvey Dixon	Silas A. Holbrook
1844—Chris. Dickinson	Albert Chandler	D. S. Williams	George Hayden
1845—L. D. Crippen	John D. Wood	Geo. Kellogg	Jos. H. Moss
1846—David R. Cooley	S. S. Cutter	D. S. Williams	J. Strickland
1847—Henry Lockwood	Elon Parsons	Hiram Alden	William Keyes
1848—Henry Lockwood	Elon Parsons	A. Arnold	Isaac Middaugh
1849—Henry Lockwood	F. V. Smith	Anselm Arnold	J. Strickland
1850—Asa Parrish	W. C. Morehouse	David Thompson	Isaac Middaugh
1851—John Root	John G. Parkhurst	David Thompson	William Smith
1852—Harvey Haynes	John H. Phelps	L. B. Brewer	Alonzo Duncan
1853—John Root	Edwin R. Clarke	L. R. Austin	Abram C. Fisk
1854—C. P. Benton	Homer M. Wright	Sellick Seymour	
1855—George A. Coe	Benj. C. Webb	Sellick Seymour	Alonzo Duncan
1856—Harvey Haynes	Benj. C. Webb	Roland Root	Abram C. Fisk
1857—John Root	David C. Powers	James Pierson	J. B. Southworth
1858—Harvey Haynes	David C. Powers	D. B. Purinton	B. B. Shoecraft
1859—David B. Dennis	Rob. F. Mockridge	D. B. Purinton	Wm. B. Mason
1860—D. B. Purinton	Rob. F. Mockridge	C. Van Ness	J. B. Southworth
1861—Harvey Haynes	A. D. Eldridge	Timothy Phelps	Henry C. Fenn
1862—Harvey Haynes	George H. White	Timothy White	John W. Turner
1863—Harvey Haynes	Ira W. Pratt	William Bennett	J. B. Southworth
1864—Harvey Haynes	W. B. Mason	Chas. J. Fonda	Horace W. Reed
1865—S. S. Scoville	C. H. Williams	Chas. J. Fonda	B. B. Shoecraft
1866—S. S. Scoville	C. H. Williams	Elias Gage	Mahlon A. Smith
1867—Henry C. Fenn	C. H. Williams	Elias Gage	Isaac Mains
1868—Isaac Mains	Chas. N. Legg	Wm. B. Mason	Wm. H. Webster

1869—Isaac Mains	C. H. Williams	W. B. Mason	O. S. Bingham
1870—Isaac Mains	C. H. Williams	Wm. B. Mason	J. B. Southworth
1871—Isaac Mains	J. H. McGowan	W. B. Mason	Lucius Phetteplace
1872—Harvey Haynes	J. H. McGowan	Elias Gage	Mahlon A. Smith
1873—Harvey Haynes	C. H. Williams	Elias Gage	J. B. Southworth
1874—Alonzo B. Allen	C. H. Williams	Timothy Phelps	Wm. P. Norton
1875—A. B. Allen	C. H. Williams	Timothy Phelps	Jacob C. Andrews
1876—A. B. Allen	Harvey Gregory	Timothy Phelps	Wm. P. Norton
1877—Henry C. Fenn	H. D. Gregory	Charles Shoecraft	Wm. P. Norton
1878—A. B. Allen	C. H. Williams	Geo. W. Fisk	Russell Rice
1879—Harvey Haynes	Hervey Gregory	Geo. W. Dickey	Wm. P. Benton
1880—Geo. W. Dickey	Hervey Gregory	Samuel Fisk	Marcus Hunt
1881—Geo. W. Dickey	Hervey Gregory	Samuel Fisk	Origin Bingham
1882—Geo. W. Dickey	Hervey Gregory	Albert Brinton	Origin Bingham
1883—J. C. Andrews	Benj. W. Mains	Albert Brinton	Origin Bingham
1884—Geo. W. Dickey	Benj. W. Mains	T. J. Williams	Origin Bingham
1885—Geo. W. Dickey	Benj. W. Mains	T. J. Williams	R. F. Parker
1886—Geo. W. Dickey	Floyd Gage	Ezra Shoecraft	
1887—J. C. Andrews	Geo. H. Turner	Ezra Shoecraft	Origin Bingham
1888—Samuel Fisk	Harvey Painter	James Burdick	Origin Bingham
1889—Samuel Fisk	Harvey E. Painter	James Burdick	James Bassett
1890—Samuel Fisk	Henry E. Straight	Edward D. Legg	Israel Painter
1891—Samuel Fisk	Henry E. Straight	Edward D. Legg	James Burdick
1892—Samuel Fisk	Chas. Culp	Ezra Shoecraft	James Burdick
1893—Samuel Fisk	Chas. Wicker	Chas. Culp	Cyrus Hand
1894—Samuel Fisk	Chas. Wicker	Chas. Culp	Cyrus Hand
1895—Chas. Culp	Chas. Wicker	Chas. Brooks	E. Blodgett
1896—Chas. Culp	Chas. Wicker	Chas. Brooks	H. H. Benson
1897—Chas. Culp	Chas. Wicker	Wm. H. Megley	H. H. Benson
1898—Chas. Culp	Chas. Wicker	Wm. H. Megley	H. H. Benson
1899—Chas. Culp	Chas. Wicker	Geo. Martin	James Storr
1900—Chas. D. Wicker	G. S. Thomas	Geo. Martin	James Storr
1901—Chas. D. Wicker	G. S. Thomas	Ted C. Cox	James Storr
1902—Chas. D. Wicker	G. S. Thomas	Ted C. Cox	James Storr
1903—Chas. D. Wicker	G. S. Thomas	Morgan L. Tyler	James Storr
1904—Chas. D. Wicker	G. S. Thomas	Morgan L. Tyler	Lewis Dollimore
1905—George Martin	Wm. Hurst	John Phelps	Seth B. Randall
1906—George Martin	Wm. Hurst	John Phelps	Seth B. Randall

Village of Coldwater.

President	*Clerk*	*Treasurer*
1837—Hiram Alden	E. T. Paxton	
1838—L. D. Crippen	E. A. Warner	
1839—Silas A. Holbrook	E. A. Warner	James H. Hanchett
1840—		
1841—		
1842—David Williams	George A. Coe	D. S. Williams
1843—William Pierson	G. A. Coe	William H. Kellogg
1844—Henry Lockwood	G. A. Coe	David Wood
1845—		
1846—A. L. Porter	Corydon P. Benton	Cornelius Wendell

1847—Harvey Warner	C. P. Benton	George A. Kellogg
1848—Harvey Warner	C. P. Benton	
1849—Jared Pond	Henry C. Gilbert	Hiram Alden
1850—Jared Pond	L. T. N. Wilson	Phineas P. Wright
1851—Harvey Warner	E. G. Fuller	
1852—Albert Chandler	James W. Gilbert	Robert F. Mockridge
1853—Hiram Shoudler	George A. Kellogg	R. F. Mockridge
1854—Alvin H. Burdick	Elihu B. Pond	R. F. Mockridge
1855—Hiram Baker	Justin Lawyer	George A. Coe
1856—Roland Root	Franklin T. Eddy	Nelson D. Skeels
1857—Augustus S. Glessner	Franklin T. Eddy	A. F. Bidwell
1858—Alonzo F. Bidwell	Wallace W. Barrett	Justin Lawyer
1859—Charles Upham		Justin Lawyer
1860—Stephen Cutler	P. P. Nichols	John S. Youngs

CITY OF COLDWATER.

Mayor	*Clerk*	*Treasurer*
1861—Albert Chandler	Robert F. Mockridge	John S. Youngs
1862—Albert Chandler	R. F. Mockridge	John S. Youngs
1863—David B. Dennis	Hiram D. Upham	Ives G. Miles
1864—Justin Lawyer	John Murphey	George Starr
1865—Justin Lawyer	John Murphey	George Starr
1866—John H. Beach	William G. Moore	George Starr
1867—D. C. Powers	D. J. Easton	George Starr
1868—David C. Powers	John Murphey	John P. Youngs
1869—Phineas P. Nichols	John Murphey	Lester E. Rose
1870—Justin Lawyer	William H. H. Halsted	Lester E. Rose
1871—David B. Dennis	W. H. H. Halsted	Willard J. Bowen
1872—Henry C. Lewis	William R. Foster	Willard J. Bowen
1873—H. C. Lewis	William R. Foster	Willard J. Bowen
1874—John R. Champion	Charles L. Truesdell	Willard J. Bowen
1875—J. R. Champion	Charles L. Truesdell	Willard J. Bowen
1876—Stephen S. Cutter	L. P. Palmer	Willard J. Bowen
1877—Charles Upson	L. P. Palmer	George Starr
1878—A. J. Foster	Albert O. Wood	Ransom E. Hall
1879—D. C. Powers	William G. Moore	A. S. Upson
1880—John R. Champion	William G. Moore	A. S. Upson
1881—Barton S. Tibbits	Lilburn P. Palmer	Charles Starr
1882—L. M. Wing	George B. Tompkins	Charles L. Truesdell
1883—George Starr	George B. Tompkins	A. S. Upson
1884—George Starr	Judson P. Etheridge	A. S. Upson
1885—Alfred Milnes	J. P. Etheridge	L. A. Jackson
1886—Alfred Milnes	Allen Cope	Lennes A. Jackson
1887—B. H. Calkins	Charles F. Ruggles	A. S. Upson
1888—B. H. Calkins	Calvin H. Macumber	A. S. Upson
1889—C. D. Randall	Elmer J. Allen	L. A. Jackson
1890—Edwin R. Clarke	Elmer J. Allen	L. A. Jackson
1891—Edwin R. Clarke	Harry R. Saunders	Charles T. Gilbert
1892—Barzilla Calkins	Charles J. Harris	Charles T. Gilbert
1893—Simon B. Kitchel	James R. Dickey	L. A. Jackson
1894—N. A. Reynolds	H. A. Close	L. A. Jackson

1895—T. A. Hilton	H. A. Close	A. S. Upson
1896—A. A. Sherman	H. A. Close	W. E. Hodgman
1897—A. A. Sherman	H. A. Close	Harry R. Saunders
1898—Clayton C. Johnson	Patrick H. Sweeney	
1899—Clayton C. Johnson	Patrick H. Sweeney	
1900—Clayton C. Johnson	Patrick H. Sweeney	
1901—Elmer E. Palmer	Patrick H. Sweeney	A. S. Upson
1902—Milo D. Campbell	Patrick H. Sweeney	W. E. Hodgman
1903—Milo D. Campbell	William H. Moore	
1904—Milo D. Campbell	William H. King	A. S. Upson
1905—Chas. N. Legg	William H. King	Milton W. Wimer
1906—Gerald E. Kleindinst	William H. King	H. R. Saunders

Village of Quincy.

President	*Clerk*	*Treasurer*
1858—Ebenezer Mudge	Moses A. Hewitt	Alden Gregory
1859—William P. Arnold	Moses A. Hewitt	William J. Briggs
1860—Alden Gregory	Moses A. Hewitt	William J. Briggs
1861—Cornelius Shear	Benj. F. Clark	Barber N. Sheldon
1862—Joseph Berry	Benj. F. Clark	Benj. F. Wheat
1863—John Sebring	Ebenezer Mudge	Gideon O. Bailey
1864—John Sebring	Ebenezer Mudge	Thomas Clark
1865—Charles N. Wilcox	Ebenezer Mudge	Thomas Clark
1866—Cornelius Shear	Ebenezer Mudge	Thomas Clark
1867—David C. Myers	Ebenezer Mudge	Thomas Clark
1868—David C. Myers	Ebenezer Mudge	Thomas Clark
1869—David C. Myers	Ebenezer Mudge	Thomas Clark
1870—David C. Myers	Ebenezer Mudge	George B. Knight
1871—Horace Lownsberry	Ebenezer Mudge	George B. Knight
1872—Horace Lownsberry	Ebenezer Mudge	George B. Knight
1873—Jacob Kincaid	Ebenezer Mudge	Almeron J. Wright
1874—Jacob Kincaid	Ebenezer Mudge	Almeron J. Wright
1875—Jacob Kincaid	Ebenezer Mudge	Almon L. Lytle
1876—Jacob Kincaid	Ebenezer Mudge	Alfred A. Bowen
1877—Walton J. Barnes	Ebenezer Mudge	Stephen H. Loveland
1878—Walton J. Barnes	Ebenezer Mudge	George B. Knight
1879—Walton J. Barnes	Ebenezer Mudge	George B. Knight
1880—		Jesse B. Sutton
1881—William A. Markel	Daniel W. Sawyer	J. B. Sutton
1882—		J. B. Sutton
1883—W. A. Markel	D. W. Sawyer	J. B. Sutton
1884—		J. B. Sutton
1885—John H. Jones	D. W. Sawyer	Charles L. Truesdell
1886—John H. Jones	D. W. Sawyer	C. L. Truesdell
1887—John H. Jones	D. W. Sawyer	C. W. Bennett
1888—C. L. Truesdell	Francis E. Marsh, Jr.	Henry A. Graves
1889—Francis E. Marsh	F. E. Marsh, Jr.	Robert J. Stevens
1890—F. E. Marsh	Charles H. Young	William Lennon
1891—Clinton G. Powers	Elmer J. Clizbe	Charles H. Young
1892—C. G. Powers	F. H. White	James Haynes

Note—A book of records containing the officers from 1893 to 1902 could not be found in spite of diligent inquiry; hence the break in the official list.

1902—Charles W. Owen	Ruel D. Rawson	Edward M. Brown
1903—C. W. Owen	R. D. Rawson	E. M. Brown
1904—Clarence C. Jones	R. D. Rawson	Davis H. Houghtaling
1905—C. C. Jones	R. D. Rawson	D. H. Houghtaling
1906—Joseph N. Salisbury	Lee O. Burch	Arthur M. Griffin

VILLAGE OF BRONSON.

President	*Clerk*	*Treasurer*
1866—Warren Byrns	Andrew S. Parrish	Joseph E. Earl
1867—Cyrus J. Keyes		
1868—Oscar B. Nichols		
1869—Lorenzo A. Rose		
1870—Jason Shepard		
1871—Milo Clark		
1872—Oscar B. Nichols		
1873—Oscar B. Nichols		
1874—Oscar B. Nichols		
1875—Anson J. Horton		
1876—Milo Clark		
1877—Jason Shepard		
1878—Christopher G. Babcock		
1879—Dr. W. Byrns	W. Ira Beesmer	Jason Shepard
1880—Christopher G. Babcock	William I. Beesmer	Horace B. Williams
1881—Christopher G. Babcock	William I. Beesmer	Horace B. Williams
1882—Oscar B. Nichols	William I. Beesmer	Horace B. Williams
1883—Milo Clark	William I. Beesmer	Horace B. Williams
1884—Milo Clark	William I. Beesmer	Thomas James
1885—George W. Ellis	Franklin H. Keyes	George W. Hanks
1886—George W. Ellis	Adelbert B. Clark	Lucius M. Leet
1887—George W. Ellis	Adelbert B. Clark	Lucius M. Leet
1888—Henry P. Mowry	Adelbert B. Clark	Perry L. Crawford
1889—Burt M. Fellows	Alonzo Ruggles	Randall D. Powers
1890—Burt M. Fellows	Perry L. Crawford	Franklin G. Keyes
1891—James N. Fisk	Randall D. Powers	
1892—James N. Fisk	Adelbert B. Clark	Glenn D. Corey
1893—Albert M. Shepard	Adelbert B. Clark	Glenn D. Corey
1894—C. M. Van Every, Jr.	Albert M. Shepard	Charles K. Bush
1895—A. B. Leonard	Albert M. Shepard	Thomas James
1896—Frank M. Rudd	Burt M. Fellows	Harry Ruple
1897—C. M. Van Every, Jr.	Albert M. Shepard	George E. Robinson
1898—Robert M. Sanderson	Albert M. Shepard	George E. Robinson
1899—Robert M. Sanderson	Albert M. Shepard	William H. Davis
1900—C. M. Van Every, Jr.	Milo Thompson	William H. Davis
1901—Harry Ruple	Milo Thompson	George E. Robinson
1902—Albert M. Shepard	William H. Davis	George E. Robinson
1903—Jacob F. Werner	William H. Davis	Arthur D. Lindsey
1904—Jacob F. Werner	William H. Davis	Charles T. Cockle
1905—Jacob F. Werner	William H. Davis	Charles T. Cockle
1906—Richard Coward	William H. Davis	Glenn L. Keyes

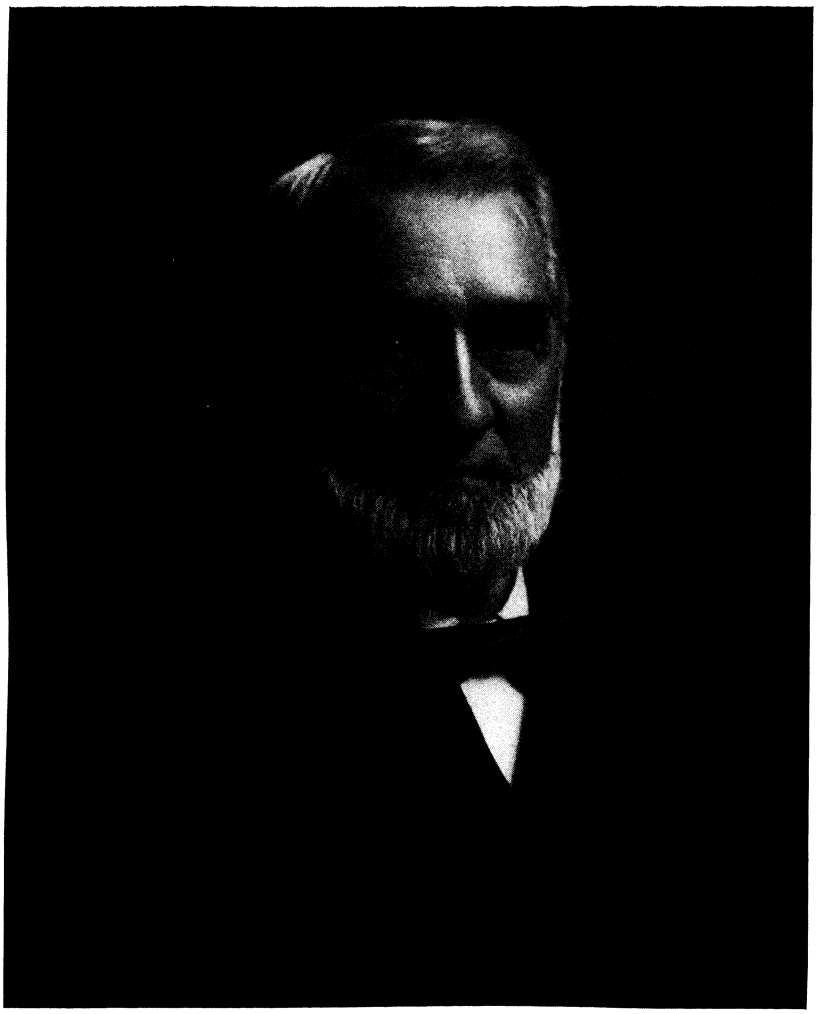
Village of Union City.

	President	*Clerk*	*Treasurer*
1866	Silas H. Nye	C. W. Saunders	J. T. Leonard
1867	Silas H. Nye	C. W. Saunders	J. T. Leonard
1868	Henry F. Ewers	C. E. Ewers	J. T. Leonard
1869	Solomon Parsons	J. T. Leonard	E. L. Lee
1870	Ezra Bostwick	James T. Leonard	Hiram Crissy
1871	Henry F. Ewers	J. T. Leonard	Hiram Crissy
1872	Marc A. Merrifield	D. J. Easton	Ira W. Nash
1873	Ezra Bostwick	D. J. Easton	Jerome Bowen
1874	Ezra Bostwick	D. J. Easton	W. P. Hurd
1875	Ezra Bostwick	D. J. Easton	C. E. Ewers
1876	Silas H. Nye	David J. Easton	Charles E. Ewers
1877	S. H. Nye	D. J. Easton	Charles E. Ewers
1878	Charles W. Crocker	Henry F. Ewers	D. J. Easton
1879	C. W. Crocker	D. J. Easton	Henry T. Carpenter
1880	C. W. Crocker	D. J. Easton	H. T. Carpenter
1881	John I. Copeland	D. J. Easton	H. T. Carpenter
1882	John I. Copeland	D. J. Easton	H. T. Carpenter
1883	Martin F. Buell	D. J. Easton	H. T. Carpenter
1884	Martin F. Buell	D. J. Easton	H. T. Carpenter
1885	D. J. Easton	E. H. Brooks	H. T. Carpenter
1886	D. J. Easton	E. H. Brooks	H. T. Carpenter
1887	D. J. Easton	Grove A. Church	H. T. Carpenter
1888	Ira E. Hitchcock	D. J. Easton	H. T. Carpenter
1889	Martin F. Buell	D. J. Easton	H. T. Carpenter
1890	Martin F. Buell	D. J. Easton	H. T. Carpenter
1891	Thomas B. Buell	D. J. Easton	H. T. Carpenter
1892	Martin F. Buell	D. J. Easton	H. T. Carpenter
1893	George K. Whiting	D. J. Easton	H. T. Carpenter
1894	John S. Nesbitt	D. J. Easton	H. T. Carpenter
1895	John S. Nesbitt	D. J. Easton	H. T. Carpenter
1896	John S. Nesbitt	D. J. Easton	H. T. Carpenter
1897	Frank C. Rheubottom	T. F. Robinson	J. S. Nesbitt
1898	Frank C. Rheubottom	T. F. Robinson	G. K. Whiting
1899	David J. Easton	Tom F. Robinson	G. K. Whiting
1900	G. K. Whiting	T. F. Robinson	C. H. Lowell
1901	Leo L. Johnson	T. F. Robinson	C. H. Lowell
1902	D. D. Buell	T. F. Robinson	F. H. Whiting
1903	A. R. Barrett	George Styles	F. H. Whiting
1904	W. W. Snider	George Styles	G. K. Whiting
1905	W. W. Snider	George Styles	G. K. Whiting
1906	W. W. Snider	George Styles	C. H. Lowell

Village of Sherwood.

	President	*Clerk*	*Treasurer*
1887	Robert Fraser	Elgin Barton	D. R. Spencer
1888	Robert Fraser	Elgin Barton	E. W. Gordon
1889	Robert Fraser	C. E. Nelthorpe	E. W. Gordon
1890	L. P. Wilcox	Elgin Barton	G. H. Seymour
1891	G. H. Seymour	L. I. Watson	E. E. Alliger

1892—G. H. Seymour	C. E. Swain	W. B. Chiesman
1893—C. B. Harrison	C. E. Swain	W. B. Chiesman
1894—J. W. French	C. E. Swain	W. B. Chiesman
1895—J. W. French	H. Hass	W. B. Chiesman
1896—J. W. French	F. Hicks	W. B. Chiesman
1897—A. W. Morris	F. Hicks	James Swain
1898—J. F. Alger	F. Hicks	Frank Thoms
1899—L. M. Daniels	L. E. Lowry	C. E. Nelthorpe
1900—L. M. Daniels	E. S. Easton	H. J. Klose
1901—W. B. Chiesman	E. S. Easton	Earl Warner
1902—W. B. Chiesman	E. S. Easton	Earl Warner
1903—W. B. Chiesman	E. S. Easton	W. F. Lampman
1904—L. M. Daniels	E. S. Easton	W. F. Lampman
1905—L. M. Daniels	E. S. Easton	G. H. Seymour
1906—J. W. French	E. S. Easton	G. H. Seymour



Cyrus G. Luce

HON. CYRUS GRAY LUCE.

No compendium such as the province of this work defines in its essential limitations will serve to offer fit memorial to the life and accomplishments of the honored subject of this sketch—a man remarkable in the breadth of his wisdom, in his indomitable perseverance, his strong individuality, and yet one whose entire life has not one esoteric phase, being an open scroll, inviting the closest scrutiny. True, his have been "massive deeds and great" in one sense, and yet his entire life accomplishment but represents the result of the fit utilization of the innate talent which is his, and the directing of his efforts in those lines where mature judgment and rare discrimination lead the way. There was in him a weight of character, a native sagacity, a far-seeing judgment and a fidelity of purpose that commanded the respect of all. A man of indefatigable enterprise and fertility of resource, he carved his name deeply on the record of the political, commercial and professional history of the state, which owes much of its advancement to his efforts.

Governor Luce was born in Windsor, Ashtabula county, Ohio, July 2, 1824, and died at Coldwater, Michigan, March 18, 1905. His parents were Walter and Mary M. Luce, his paternal ancestors settling at Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, at a very early day in the colonization of the new world, and about 1720 his paternal grandfather removed to Holland, Connecticut, where his father was born. The latter was a soldier of the war of 1812, and about 1815 settled on the western reserve in Ohio. His mother was a Virginian by birth, and her father was of English lineage, but becoming an abolitionist he removed from the slave state of Virginia to Ohio, establishing the family home in the latter state.

Governor Luce was reared upon a farm in the state of his nativity amid pioneer conditions and environments until twelve years of age, when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Steuben county, Indiana, where they cast in their lot with its first settlers. He attended one of the pioneer country schools and supplemented his early education by a course in an academy located at Ontario, Lagrange county, Indiana, where he resided for three years. Arriving at man's estate he chose the occupation of farming as a life work and located on a tract of land in Gilead township, Branch county, Michigan, and from that time afterward to the day of his death he was always interested to a greater or less extent in agricultural pursuits, finding therein a good source of livelihood, his labors bringing him a gratifying financial return.

In early life Mr. Luce was a warm admirer of Henry Clay and he cast his first presidential ballot for Zachary Taylor, in 1848. The first office that he ever held was that of supervisor of his township, being elected thereto in 1852, his services covering a period of ten years by reason of his re-election. He was one of the organizers of the Republican party in his county, and in 1854 he was elected upon the Republican ticket to the Michigan legislature. In 1858 he was the successful Republican candidate for the office of county treasurer and in 1860 was re-elected. In 1864 he was called by popular

suffrage to the offce of state senator, and in 1866 was again chosen for that position, while in 1867 he became a member of the constitutional convention and assisted in framing the organic law of the commonwealth. In 1879 he was appointed state oil inspector by Governor Crosswell, and by reappointment of Governor Jerome in 1881 he continued as the incumbent for four years. Still higher honors awaited him, for in 1886 he became the standard bearer of his party in Michigan and was elected governor, being again elected in 1888. His administration is a matter of history and forms a record that is creditable alike to the state, its constituents and himself. His course was characterized by an unfaltering devotion to the public good and by honest purpose. He may have made some mistakes, for who does not, but his allegiance to high ideals no one questioned, and his administration was in many respects beneficial.

Mr. Luce was at various times connected with mercantile establishments and also with other business concerns, industrial, commercial and financial. At the time of his death he was the vice-president of the Southern Michigan National Bank, and his energies and well directed labor proved a potent factor in the successful conduct of many important business interests.

In 1849 Governor Luce was married to Miss Julia A. Dickinson, a native of Massachusetts, who came with her parents to Branch county in 1836. They had five children: Elmira; Emery Greeley, a farmer of Gilead township; Dwight D., deceased; Florence A.; and Homer D. The mother died in 1882 and the following year Governor Luce married Mrs. Mary E. Thompson. He departed this life at the venerable age of almost eighty-one years. Honored and respected in every class of society he was for a long period a leader in thought and action in the public life of the state and his name is inscribed high on the roll of fame, his honorable and brilliant career adding lustre to the history of Branch county and of Michigan.

CHARLES F. CARPENTER.

Charles F. Carpenter, register of deeds of Branch county, was born in Constantine, St. Joseph county, Michigan, October 2, 1852, his parents being Frederick and Eunice (Smith) Carpenter, both of whom were natives of New York. In that state they were married and soon afterward came to Michigan, settling in St. Joseph county, where the father became locally prominent and influential. He was sheriff of the county at the time of his death, and in the discharge of all public duties and obligations he was prompt, reliable and efficient. His widow afterward became the wife of G. W. Collins, a farmer of St. Joseph county, Michigan, and in the home of his step-father and on the farm Charles F. Carpenter was reared. The mother died in Coldwater, in 1903.

Charles F. Carpenter was but two years of age when his father died. In his boyhood he became familiar with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He attended the common schools of the neighborhood and afterward enjoyed the privilege of a year's study in Colon Seminary. Entering upon his business career he followed house painting

for five or six years and in 1871 he came to Coldwater, where he accepted a clerkship in the dry goods store of W. S. Allen. A few years later he entered the employ of J. B. Branch & Company, of Coldwater, remaining in the service of that firm for twenty-five years—a fact which indicates in unmistakable terms his fidelity and capability. His able services contributed in substantial measure to the success of the house and he had the entire confidence as well as the good will of those whom he represented. He resigned his position in order to enter upon the duties of the office of register of deeds, to which position he had been elected in the fall of 1904 upon the Republican ticket by two thousand majority. On the 1st of January, 1905, he began the administration of the affairs of this office for a two years' term and his course has indicated that the trust reposed in him was well placed.

In 1878 Mr. Carpenter was married to Miss Rose B. Sheldon, an estimable lady, who died February 17, 1901, amid the deep regret of all who knew her. She was widely and favorably known and in addition to the social qualities which rendered her a favorite she was also a factor in public office in the county, acting for twelve years as probate register under Judge Norman A. Reynolds, after which she filled the office of deputy county clerk for four years. All who knew her recognized her as a woman of superior qualifications, excellent executive ability and strong force of character. She had, too, the truly womanly qualities of kindliness, generosity and consideration for others and thus endeared herself to all with whom she came in contact. She was a devoted and consistent member of the Episcopal church, and for eighteen years was a member of the church choir. At the time of her death the following appeared in the *Courier and Republican*:

"In the death of Mrs. Rose Carpenter Coldwater loses one of its most lovely characters, and her demise will be mourned by all. Of an amiable disposition, she had none but kind words and loving thoughts for all. Her home was her throne, and how kindly she ruled her realm. In the family she was all that a wife should be. To her friends she was true, to the sick and suffering helpful; for the sorrowing she always had a word of comfort and hope.

"Passionately fond of music, she was at all times ready and willing to lend the melody of her glorious voice on all occasions, whether in the church, in the social circle, or at the last obsequies of some one who had gone before. For a number of years she sang in the Methodist choir, but for several years past was a member of the Episcopal choir, where she ably assisted in building that organization up to the very front of the choirs in this city.

"In social circles she was a general favorite, her bright, sunny ways, her genial manner, her sweet, loving thoughts, always made her a welcome guest. She never had other than a kind word or a pleasant recognition for all, whether rich or poor, high or low, and her death will cause sadness in many a household where her virtues were known. To the sorrowing husband and mother the hearty sympathy and condolence of all will be extended.

But her work is done, her tasks all finished, and she has gone where suffering is unknown and the weary are at rest.

"She had been in public life quite a number of years. A beautiful writer, her books and records were always commented upon favorably, and her accommodating, cheerful, willing ways made her liked by all who had any business to transact in those offices."

"Rose Sheldon was born March 9, 1855, in Batavia township, and had lived in this city since 1865. July 18, 1878, she was married to Charles F. Carpenter, who survives her, together with her aged mother, Mrs. Laura Sheldon. She died at 10 o'clock Sunday night, February 17, 1901. On Sunday, February 10th, she occupied her usual place in the Episcopal choir and sang a solo very sweetly. At 12 o'clock that same night she was stricken and a week later, almost to the hour, had entered into that sleep that knows no waking. Sunday forenoon Dr. Smith, of Toledo, assisted by Drs. Warsabo, Wood and Baldwin of this city, performed an operation, but the disease—strangulation of the bowels—had advanced too far for the operation to be of any benefit. A few hours previous to her death she sang part of the solo she sang the previous Sunday evening in the church. She was prepared to answer the final summons and was conscious and brave to the very last."

Mr. Carpenter is also an Episcopalian and is a Royal Arch Mason, his life being in conformity with his profession in connection with these two beneficent organizations. During the years of his residence in Coldwater he has commanded the respect of all with whom he has been associated, and having closely allied his interests with those of his adopted country he has proved a valued citizen.

FRED W. DOOLITTLE.

The well improved farm of Fred W. Doolittle, situated in Girard township, Calhoun county, is an indication of his life of thrift and enterprise, for in his record consecutive and honorable effort has been crowned with gratifying prosperity. He was born in Clarendon, Calhoun county, Michigan, June 27, 1858, and is a son of James A. and Nancy (Wells) Doolittle, both of whom were natives of the Empire state. The father was descended from the Doolittle family which has been prominent in the east for a number of generations, while its representatives are now scattered all over the United States. The original ancestors came to America from England. William Doolittle, the grandfather, died in Clarendon, Michigan, many years ago. It was in that city that the parents of our subject were married, and there they remained until called from this life. They were leading and influential people of the community, held membership in the Baptist church at Tekonsha, Michigan, and were highly esteemed by all who knew them.

Mr. Doolittle spent his early life on the home farm in Clarendon, where he lived until twenty-four years of age. His education was acquired in the public schools and he received practical training in the farm work, so that he was well equipped for successful agricultural work when he entered busi-

ness life on his own account. At the age of twenty years he was married on the 28th of September, 1878, to Miss Ida A. Phelps, a daughter of Jerome B. and Lucinda (Nichols) Phelps. Her paternal grandfather, Henry Phelps, was one of the early settlers of Tekonsha and Calhoun county, and he had lived in New York prior to that time and his ancestors had resided there for many years. It was in the 30's that he became the founder of the family in Michigan, and his death occurred in Calhoun county many years ago. Jerome B. Phelps, however, is still living on the old home farm at Tekonsha, but his wife passed away about ten years ago. She was a daughter of Charles Nichols, who came from Pennsylvania and settled at Tekonsha at an early day. Mr. and Mrs. Doolittle have become the parents of four children: Edith, who died in infancy twenty-two years ago; Clifford, living on one of his father's farms in Girard township, and who married Murel Pell, by whom he has a daughter Ethel; and Earl and Pearl, who are on the old homestead with their father.

Fred W. Doolittle is one of the leading farmers of Girard township, and owns two hundred and eight acres of valuable land on sections three, ten and two. He has lived in this township for twenty-two years and his first purchase of land comprised eighty acres, to which he has since added until he now has valuable holdings. He has made a specialty of stock feeding and cattle dealing, and in the management of his business interests has met with very gratifying success. His farm is now a valuable property improved with excellent buildings and everything about the place indicates that he is in touch with the most progressive ideas of farming. In community affairs he is interested and has served as school director, while fraternally he is connected with the Masons and the Ancient Order of United Workmen, belonging to the respective lodges at Tekonsha. He possesses a strength of purpose and persistency in business affairs that have made him a representative agriculturist of this community and his life record reflects credit upon the state of his nativity.

EDWIN R. BATES.

Edwin R. Bates, a farmer and representative citizen of Ovid township, living on section eighteen, was born at the place where he still resides, his natal day being October 26, 1849. His father, Joshua M. Bates, also devoted his attention to agricultural pursuits and was one of the early settlers of Branch county. His birth occurred in Otsego county, New York, December 31, 1805, and he removed with his parents when a lad of three years to Newstead, Erie county, New York, where he grew to manhood. On the 31st of December, 1828, he was united in marriage to Miss Lydia Card, and to this union five children were born, two dying in infancy. In April, 1836, he concluded to go west and try the realities of a pioneer life in a new country. He started on foot for Michigan, walking the entire distance, arriving at Coldwater on the 16th of the month. After locating eighty acres of land on section eighteen in Ovid township he returned to his home for his family. After disposing of his place, which constituted a quarter of an acre of land,

he came with his family to Michigan, arriving April 30, 1837. The following April his wife died, leaving him with three small children alone in a new country, the eldest child being but nine years old. On the 6th of April, 1840, he was married to Miss Olive A. Bates, of Farmington, Oakland county, Michigan. To this union eight children were born, four dying in infancy. Being an early settler, Mr. Bates passed through all the privations and hardships of pioneer life in a new country, going barefooted in the summer and wearing cowhide shoes in the winter. With his strong arms he wielded the ax and felled the giant oaks until he brought his farm under a good state of cultivation, adding forty acres in 1863. Although his trials and hardships included sickness and death in the family he managed to keep his farm free from debt, and through his whole life he never had a lawsuit. On the 18th of July, 1869, Joshua Bates became ill with diphtheria and died on the 30th of the month, leaving a wife and six children to mourn his loss. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. Hilam Scofield and the remains were laid to rest in West Ovid cemetery.

Olive A. Bates, the youngest daughter of Josiah and Betsey Bates, was born in Pownal, Bennington county, Vermont, May 2, 1815. She resided with her parents, assisting in the general household work and attending school until she acquired a good education. After the death of her father she came with her half-brother, Benjamin Stevens, to Michigan and settled on a farm in Oakland county in 1832. She taught several terms of school in Farmington and Levona townships, boarding with the patrons. Ofttimes she would have to walk two or three miles to her boarding place through snow and rain, receiving as a compensation for her work only two dollars per week in the summer and three dollars per week in the winter. She was a great reader and well informed on almost any subject. She read the Bible three times through consecutively. She announced her allegiance to the cause of Christian religion when young and was a Presbyterian in faith, but coming here in an early day was unable to unite with the church of her choice. In 1840 she gave her hand in marriage to Joshua M. Bates and came with him to Ovid, Branch county, here residing until her death, which occurred at the home of her son, Edwin R., December 5, 1884. She was the mother of eight children, four dying in infancy. She was a faithful wife, kind and indulgent mother and a good neighbor, ever ready to lend a helping hand in time of sickness and sorrow and always ready to give alms to the needy. When the time came for her to depart this life it could be truthfully said, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things. I will make thee ruler over many things. Enter thou into the joys of thy Lord." The funeral service was conducted by the pastor in charge of the Methodist Episcopal church, and interment made in West Ovid cemetery by the side of her husband who had preceded her to the final home.

Edwin R. Bates spent the days of his boyhood and youth upon the old homestead farm in Ovid township, and has continued to reside here through the period of his manhood, carrying on the active work of the fields. At the time of his father's demise he came into possession of forty acres of land.

He has made all of the improvements upon this place and has since extended the boundaries of his property by the additional purchase of seventy-four acres. Year after year the work of plowing, planting and harvesting is carried forward by him, and he annually harvests rich crops as the reward of the labor which he bestows on the fields.

On the 21st of October, 1871, Mr. Bates was married to Miss Mary Cole, a daughter of George M. and Eliza Cole, of Ovid township, who were farming people, settling in Branch county at an early day. They made their way westward from New York and cast in their lot with the pioneer residents of this part of Michigan. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Bates was born one son, Royal E., whose birth occurred November 26, 1875. The wife and mother died March 4, 1883, and Mr. Bates was again married on the 31st of December, 1887, his second union being with Mildred Cornell, who was born in Lenawee county, Michigan, on the 24th of March, 1862, and is a daughter of Albert and Martha Cornell, both of whom are natives of Lenawee county. Her father devoted his entire time and energies to agricultural pursuits save for the period of the Civil war, when he joined the Eighteenth Michigan Infantry for active service in the field. He was on the Sultana at the time it blew up. By the second marriage of Mr. Bates there is one son, Harold W., born July 21, 1889.

Mr. Bates is known as an earnest and stalwart advocate of Republican principles, being actively associated with the party in Branch county. He served as township clerk for seven years, was supervisor for four years, and has held several other township offices. He has taken an active part in public affairs in the various lines contributing to advancement, and his co-operation may always be counted upon for movements for the general good. He is a prominent Mason, holding membership in Tyre Lodge, No. 18, at Coldwater, and belongs to Temple Chapter No. 21 and Jacobs Commandery No. 10. In his life he shows forth the spirit of the craft, which is based upon mutual helpfulness and brotherly kindness. The fact that many of his warmest friends are numbered among those who have known him from his boyhood days down to the present is an indication of an honorable career.

JOHN JOHNSON.

Among the early settlers of Branch county is numbered John Johnson, now living on section fourteen, Union township. He was born in Erie county, Ohio, on the 8th of April, 1836. His father, J. D. Johnson, was a native of New York, born on the 10th of April, 1799, the year General Washington died. He was married in that state to Miss Ida Squires, whose birth also occurred there, her natal year being about 1805. They removed from New York to Erie county, Ohio, about 1828, and lived on different farms in that locality. Mrs. Johnson died there in 1848 and in 1850 Mr. Johnson came to Branch county, Michigan, settling on section fourteen, Union township, where he spent his remaining days. He passed away in 1885, having reached the advanced age of eighty-six years. His political support was given to the Democratic party in his early life, and on the organization of

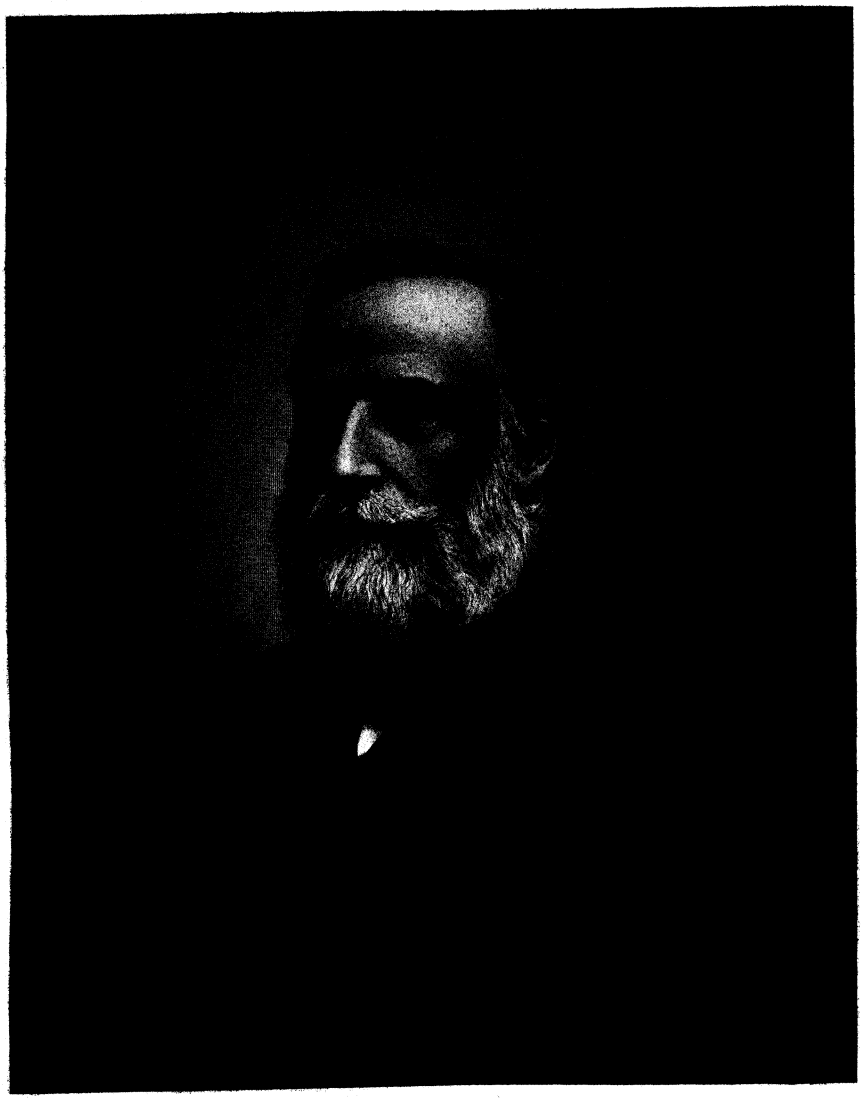
the Republican party he joined its ranks, continuing one of its advocates until his demise. Unto him and his wife were born eight children, all of whom reached adult age.

John Johnson, the sixth member of the family, was a youth of fourteen years when he came with his father to Branch county, settling in Union township. He had begun his education in his native state and he continued his studies in a log school house in Union township. There were many evidences of pioneer life to be seen here and hardships and privations yet had to be borne because of the remoteness of this district from the more thickly settled portions of the east. At the age of eighteen years he started out in life for himself and worked as a farm hand for about two years. On the 1st of January, 1863, he won a companion and helpmate for life's journey by his marriage to Miss Harriet A. Burnett, the daughter of Orris and Diantha (Millerman) Burnett. Her father was born in New York and became one of the early settlers of Branch county, arriving here in 1835, at which time he took up his abode in Union township. He entered land from the government, his deed being signed by Martin Van Buren, then president of the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Burnett were married in New York, but with the exception of the eldest child their children were all born in Union township. There were eight in the family, of whom Mrs. Johnson was the third, and her birth occurred on section fourteen, Union township, on the 25th of October, 1839. She has spent her entire life in this township and in her early girlhood days was a student in a log school house, conning her lessons as she sat on a slab bench. There was a big fire place in one end of the room and the entire furnishings were primitive, while the methods of instruction were very unlike those of the present day.

At the time of their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Johnson located on the farm where they now reside and where they have lived for forty-two years. They have become the parents of three sons: Leon A., who is represented on another page of this work; C. Herbert, who is a professor of music; and Glenn P., who is assisting in the operation of the home farm.

Mr. Johnson owns eighty acres of land rich and arable. He cut the first tree in the locality for a log house which was the first dwelling of the locality, and he is very familiar with the history of pioneer life here, not because he has been told of conditions that existed, but because he has been a witness of what has occurred and has also co-operated in many events which now find record on the annals of Branch county.

In politics he has been a Republican since the organization of the party and is now serving as justice of the peace, while for five years he was highway commissioner. The Burnett family is also prominent because of pioneer connection with this part of the state. Mrs. Johnson's father and brother Franklin were the only settlers in the neighborhood when they took up their abode in Union township. There was one family about a mile distant, but they did not know it at the time. The nearest mill was at Branch, about thirteen miles away, and Mr. Burnett assisted in building the first mill in Union township, it being erected at Hodunk.



J. S. Barber

JULIUS S. BARBER.

Hon. Julius S. Barber, whose business interests alone would entitle him to distinction as one of the representative citizens of Coldwater, is also deserving of mention because of the active part he has taken in promoting the public welfare, and by reason of his capable service as a state legislator and in other offices. His life record began in the little village of Benson, in Rutland county, Vermont, about three miles from Lake Champlain, on the 6th of April, 1824. His parents were Daniel and Cynthia (Dyer) Barber, both natives of the Green Mountain state and members of old New England families. When their son Julius was a youth of fourteen years they joined a colony composed of other Vermont families and came to the west, settling in Eaton county, Michigan, in the fall of 1838. The father had followed merchandising in his native state, but near the little village of Vermontville (founded by this colony) he carried on farming throughout his remaining days, passing away at the very advanced age of ninety-seven years. The mother of Julius Barber passed away in 1832, at the age of thirty-two years, and the father afterward marred Laura Dickinson. There were three children by the first marriage, but Julius Barber is the only survivor, and of the second marriage two daughters are living. The father was a Whig until the dissolution of the party, when he joined the ranks of the new Republican party. In religious faith he was a Congregationalist.

Julius Barber was fourteen years of age when the family came to Michigan, where he has since largely made his home, although he engaged in clerking in Whitehall, New York, for two years in early manhood, and later spent some time in California. On the 27th of January, 1849, attracted by the discovery of gold, he sailed for the Pacific coast, making the voyage around "the Horn" and landing at San Francisco, whence he proceeded to Sacramento. He returned home in 1854 by way of the Panama route, and in 1857 went the same way to California, again returning in 1859. During his first sojourn in the far west he first engaged in merchandising in Sacramento and afterward conducted a market garden near the city. On the second trip he acted as a clerk in a wholesale grocery and commission house, gaining experience, but little else, by his stay on the coast.

Mr. Barber took up his abode permanently in Michigan in 1859. He had become a resident of Coldwater in 1854 and had conducted a store here until 1857. Two years later he entered a law office, where he studied for a year and a half, when he again entered commercial life. In 1861 he joined H. J. Woodward in forming a partnership under the firm name of Woodward, Barber & Company for the conduct of a general store, in which at one time his uncle also owned an interest. In 1877 Mr. Woodward and the uncle withdrew and the style of the business firm became J. B. Branch & Company. This is to-day the leading firm in the city, conducting a large department store which occupies three floors and basement of a large double store, and carries dry goods, carpets, millinery and other lines of merchandise. The business has steadily grown and the house has ever maintained

a policy in strict conformity with a high standard of commercial ethics. Mr. Barber is also a stockholder and director of the Michigan Southern National Bank, with which he has thus been identified since its organization thirty years ago.

Mr. Barber was married, in 1854, to Mrs. Emeline Baker, nee Chalmers, who died in Chicago, Illinois, May 21, 1904. He is a member of the Episcopal church, in which he is vestryman, warden and lay reader, and in politics he is a prominent Republican, who has been called to public office by his fellow-townsmen, who recognize his ability and his devotion to the public good. He has served as city alderman and in 1874 was appointed postmaster of Coldwater, in which capacity he served for two terms. In 1867 he was chosen to represent his district in the lower house of the state legislature, and in the same year was elected a member of the constitutional convention. For four years he was assessor of internal revenue. Thus active in commercial and political circles, he is one of the public men of the city, who has done much to mold public thought and opinion and promote public progress. A review of his career is another proof of the fact that not in environment or conditions but in the man lies the possibility for accomplishment, and since coming to Michigan, at the age of fourteen years, Mr. Barker, through his force of character and strong determination, has not only provided for his needs, but has also labored along lines that have been of much benefit to his city and state.

WILLIAM MALLOW.

William Mallow is the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and fifteen acres on section eight, Noble township, where he has lived since 1878, and upon this place he has a nice residence that is surrounded by well tilled fields. He was born in this township May 13, 1844, his parents being Peter and Margaret (Peters) Mallow, the latter a daughter of one of the early settlers of Noble township, who arrived here in 1840. Peter Mallow, the father of our subject, was born in France and came to America in early life. He settled on section five, Noble township, Branch county, where he purchased eighty acres of land, and he added to this farm from time to time until he was one of the most extensive land owners of the county, his possessions aggregating twelve hundred acres, which he divided among his children as they married. About four hundred acres of land lay near Athens, Michigan, while the remainder was in Noble and Bronson townships. Mr. Mallow carried on general farming, and also dealt extensively in stock, both buying and feeding. He was a most energetic, enterprising and sagacious business man, his judgment seldom, if ever, at fault in a business transaction, and as the years passed he became very prosperous. Beside the twelve hundred acres of land which he divided among his children he left an estate valued at forty-eight thousand dollars. During the last few years of his life he lived retired in the enjoyment of a well-earned ease, and he passed away in 1889, having for about five years survived his wife, who died in June, 1884. They were the parents of eight children: Peter, who settled near Athens; William, of this review; Henry, who made his home near Union City; Christina, the

wife of R. Snyder, of Athens; Sarah N., the deceased wife of John Greenwald; George, who is living in Bronson township; Mary, the wife of David Kline, of Bronson township; and John, who makes his home near Sherwood.

William Mallow was a student in the district schools in his boyhood days, and when not busy with his text-books he assisted in the work of the home farm, whereon he remained up to the time of his marriage. In 1875 he was joined in wedlock to Miss Ella Boyer, of Noble township, a daughter of Andrew Boyer, and the young couple began their domestic life on their present farm, comprising one hundred and fifteen acres in section eight, Noble township. Mr. Mallow has erected all of the buildings here and has a nice residence containing eight rooms. In 1876 he built a barn thirty-two by forty-four feet, and he has erected other substantial outbuildings for the shelter of grain and stock. In 1878 he bought one hundred and sixty-five acres of the old homestead on section five, so that he now has two hundred and eighty acres of rich and productive land. He carries on general farming, raising the various cereals best adapted to the soil and climate, and he also buys and feeds stock, his operations in that line being quite extensive. His long experience in the business which he makes his life work and his enterprise and energy make him one of the prosperous farmers of the community.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Mallow have been born four children: Mary L., the wife of D. Benton, of LaGrange county, Indiana; Maggie, who wedded Carl Chesley, and they reside in Noble township; Clinton and Hattie, both at home. Although reared in the faith of the Democratic party, his father having become a Democrat after being made a naturalized American citizen, William Mallow gives unfaltering support to the Republican party and its principles. He has served on the school board for one term, was highway commissioner, and has been constable for several years, and is a worthy and respected citizen of the community, active and influential in support of all measures which he deems of general good. He is one of the stockholders of the Burr Oak State Bank, one of the solid banking institutions, whose stock is quoted at one hundred and fifty dollars per share, and the bank has deposits of over one hundred and six thousand dollars.

ELIJAH GROVE.

Elijah Grove, farming on section nine, Batavia township, owns and operates one hundred acres of land which has been placed under a high state of cultivation and improved with modern equipments so that it is an attractive farm property and yields good harvests, making his investment a judicious and profitable one. His life record began in Royalton township, Niagara county, New York, his natal day being April 19, 1838. His father, Elijah Grove, was born in Pennsylvania, and in 1853 came to Branch county, settling in Batavia township, where he spent the remainder of his days, his last years being passed in Coldwater as a retired farmer. He was almost ninety years of age when he departed this life. In early manhood he had married Betsy Schoby, a native of New York, and she lived to be about forty-two

years of age. There were nine children in the family, all of whom grew to manhood or womanhood. The father was married the second time to Charlotte Reynolds, who is also deceased, and by the second marriage there were eight children, five of whom are living, but none are residents of Branch county.

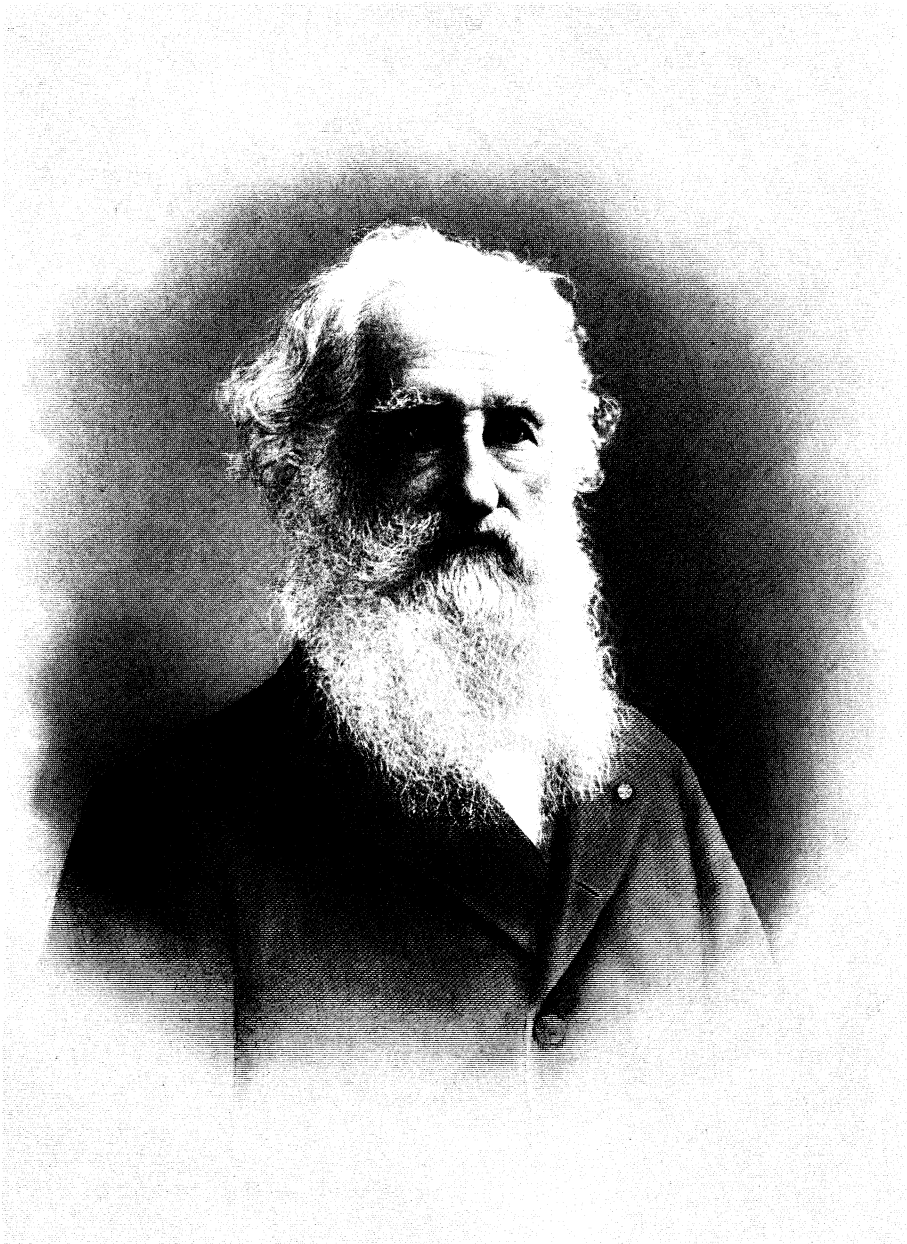
Elijah Grove, the eighth in order of birth of his parents' nine children, was a youth of fifteen when he came to Branch county. He acquired a district school education and in his youth gave his father the benefit of his services, working in field and meadow as his aid was needed in caring for the crops and the stock. He was married in 1860 to Eliza J. Loomis, the widow of Orson Burham. She was born near Rochester, New York, and by this marriage there have been two sons: Owen Glenn and Elijah Burdet.

For many years Mr. Grove engaged in the milling business and in 1864 he located on the farm where he now resides, having here one hundred acres of land, which has responded readily to the care and cultivation bestowed upon it, for the soil is naturally rich and productive. He has carried on general agricultural pursuits and he has made all of the improvements on this property, building the house and barns and adding other equipments. In 1905 he suffered the loss of his barn by fire. He has been persevering in all of his work, allowing no difficulties or obstacles to deter him in the path that he has marked out and as the result of his well directed labor he is now in possession of a comfortable competence. He has been a life-long Republican, interested in the work of the party and keeping well informed on the great questions which awaken national interest. He served as township treasurer and also as highway commissioner, but has never been active as a politician in the sense of office seeking, preferring to leave that duty to others. He belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen at Coldwater and has a wide acquaintance outside of fraternal circles, for he has long been identified with Branch county and its development.

CAPTAIN JOHN G. STEPPER.

Captain John G. Stepper, no longer active or engaged with business interests but well entitled to the rest which he is enjoying because he earned it through unremitting industry and perseverance in former years, is entitled to representation in this volume because of an honorable career and by reason of his fidelity to duty when upon the battlefields of the south he defended the Union cause. He was born in Wellenburg, Germany, September 24, 1834, and remained in the fatherland until 1848, when at the age of fourteen years he came to America with his parents, John G. and Catherine (Sindlinger) Stepper. The family home was first established in Thompson township, Seneca county, Ohio, and there they remained for about four years, after which they removed to St. Joseph county, Michigan, where the father purchased a farm. The mother died there and the father afterward came to Branch county, where he spent his last days.

Captain Stepper remained under the parental roof throughout the period of his minority and assisted in the operation of the home farm. At the call



J. G. Pearkes

of his adopted country for aid he put aside business and personal considerations, his patriotic spirit being aroused by the unwarranted attack of the south upon the government at Washington. He enlisted in Company G, First Michigan Infantry, for three months' service, and on the expiration of that term he re-enlisted as a member of Company B of the same regiment. He was first made orderly, afterward commissioned second lieutenant, later first lieutenant and subsequently became captain of Company B, serving with that command until September 26, 1864, when he received an honorable discharge, having for three years and three months been an active soldier on the battlefields of the south. He participated in the engagement at Antietam, and was taken prisoner in August, 1862, at the second battle of Bull Run. He was then incarcerated in Libby prison and after a week was parolled and sent to Annapolis, Maryland. In the first battle of Bull Run he was wounded, being shot through the right leg, and at Fredericksburg on the 13th of December, 1863, he was shot through the upper part of the leg. He was then transferred to Washington and taken to the Harwood hospital, where he remained for thirty days, after which he was granted a thirty days' furlough, and because he was still in ill health at the end of that time he was granted sixty days more, so that three months had passed when he rejoined his regiment at Sharpsburg, Virginia.

After being mustered out Captain Stepper returned to the north and was married in January, 1865, to Miss Rachel Miller. He then located on a farm in Burr Oak township, St. Joseph county, Michigan, purchasing a tract of land on which he made his home until the death of his wife in 1873. He then remained single for about a year, after which he married Almira Fallace, but he has now been a widower for twenty-four years. He has one son, Charles William, who resides in Quincy, Michigan, and a daughter, Catharine, the wife of Smith Clizbe.

Captain Stepper is a member of Butterworth Post No. 109, G. A. R., at Coldwater. He has always been an advocate of Republican principles, but would never accept office of any kind. He belongs to the German Benevolent Society, and in every relation of life in which he has been found he has made warm friends and discharged every duty with promptness and fidelity. In 1883 he purchased a farm in Coldwater township, continuing its cultivation and improvement until 1887, when he sold that property and retired from active business life, establishing his home in Coldwater, where he now lives. Progress and patriotism might be termed the keynote of his character, having been the motive force in all of his connections with public and business life.

GENERAL JOHN G. PARKHURST.

General John G. Parkhurst, a distinguished citizen of Michigan whose talent, ability and patriotism won him leadership in affairs of state and nation, died suddenly at his home in Coldwater May 6, 1906. He was widely recognized as a man of unswerving fidelity to duty, and no hope of personal gain or preferment could ever turn him from the path which he believed to be right. Although a native of New York he had resided in

Michigan since 1849, in which year he came to Coldwater to practice law.

At Oneida Castle, New York, General Parkhurst was born on the 17th of April, 1824, and was therefore at the time of his death eighty-two years of age. His ancestors were early settlers of Massachusetts and were of English and Scotch lineage,. The name Parkhurst is of Norman and French derivation, being formed of the word *parc,* the French for park, and *hurst,* the Anglo-Saxon for wood. His family name can be traced back to the time when William the Conqueror invaded England. Representatives of the family emigrated from the Isle of Wight in the early part of the fifteenth century and built the Parkhurst Manor in Surrey county, England. The earliest progenitor of the family known was George Parkhurst of Guilford, England, and one of his descendants, also bearing the name of George Parkhurst, came to America in 1635. He settled in Watertown, Massachusetts, and became the progenitor of the family in the new world, the line of descent being traced down through Joseph 1st, Joseph 2d, John 1st, John 2d and Stephen Parkhurst to General John G. Parkhurst of this review. In the Revolutionary war eleven members of the family fought for the independence of the colonies, and true to the spirit of patriotism which characterized his ancestors General Parkhurst has won honors on the battlefield in defense of his country. His parents were Stephen and Sally (Gibson) Parkhurst, the former a native of New Hampshire and the latter of Massachusetts. Mrs. Parkhurst was a granddaughter of a Scotch sea captain, who died on one of the West India islands, and she died when her son John G. was but seven years of age, leaving eight children.

General Parkhurst was thus left to the care of his sisters, to whom he is indebted for his early moral and religious training. He was reared in Oneida Castle, New York, to which place his parents had removed soon after their marriage. He attended the Oneida Academy, acquiring a thorough literary education, and at the age of nineteen years entered the law office of N. F. Graves, under whose preceptorship he studied four years, being admitted to the bar of New York in 1847. After two years of successful practice in his native place he came to Michigan, locating at Coldwater in 1849. Here he practiced law uninterruptedly until 1861, and during a part of that time was a partner of George A. Coe, who afterward became lieutenant governor of Michigan.

A sterling Democrat, influential in his party, in 1860 General Parkhurst was chosen a national delegate and was made secretary of the Charleston National Democratic Convention, which, after ten days' session and fifty-seven ballots, failed to make a nomination, later reconvening at Baltimore, where, on the sixth day's session, Stephen A. Douglas was finally nominated. Following his return home Mr. Parkhurst prepared and published the proceedings of this historic convention. While thus engaged he astonished friends by declaring that the south intended to have a government of its own, that the result would be war, and that his assistance would be required in behalf of the Union. The foresight of his prediction was soon proved, and after Fort Sumter was fired upon and the call for volunteers was made,

General Parkhurst, at the first war meeting held in Branch county, called upon all loyal citizens to prepare immediately to defend the Union. As soon as he could arrange his business affairs he gave his services to the government and was appointed by Governor Blair to the rank of lieutenant-colonel of the Ninth Michigan Infantry, being mustered into service September 10, 1861. In October of that year he reported with his regiment to General Sherman in Kentucky. After building a fort on Muldrough's hill at the mouth of Salt river, he was ordered to engage in the advance on Nashville. In the battle of Murfreesboro in July, 1862, after holding his position eight hours against a force seven times as large, and losing one-third of his command in killed and wounded, Colonel Parkhurst was taken prisoner and was detained by the rebel forces for four months. He was then exchanged in time to report to General Thomas before the battle of Stone River, and owing to the reputation the Ninth Michigan had achieved by its gallant fight at Murfreesboro General Thomas selected this command as his provost guard and appointed General Parkhurst provost marshal for the Fourteenth Army Corps. From December, 1862, until the close of the war he was on the staff of General Thomas as provost marshal general, having, a part of the time, the Ninth Michigan, two other regiments and a battery, as provost guard under his command. In that capacity he engaged in all the battles of the Army of the Cumberland, and at the same time had supervision of the conductors on the military railroads of the Department of the Cumberland, all the prisoners of war and all the provost marshals and their officers. For heroism and bravery displayed in the battles of Stone River and Chickamauga he was recommended by General Thomas for the rank of brigadier general of volunteers, and was brevetted as such in January, 1865. There were incidents in his military career that would enlist much interest, but limited space in this connection forbids further delineaton here. An indication of the government's appreciation of his efficient service, however, in that sanguine conflict is the fact that in the national park at Chickamauga there has been erected and dedicated, in 1895, a statue of General Parkhurst. This was an unusual honor, for seldom is a statue erected by the government in honor of a living man, and it indicated in unmistakable terms a high appreciation of his gallantry and bravery on that field of battle.

Following the close of his military service, in November, 1865, General Parkhurst opened a law office in Nashville, Tennessee, but being unwilling to identify himself with either the radicals, the Republicans or the southerners, he abandoned the idea of remaining and returned to Coldwater in August, 1866. He was then appointed by President Johnson as United States marshal for the District of Michigan, a position which he held about six months. When his name came before the United States senate for a confirmation of this appointment, it was opposed by those who had signed his recommendation because of his chance presence at the Philadelphia Soldiers' Convention, so adroitly captured by President Johnson. In 1868 he was nominated by the Soldiers' state convention for lieutenant-governor of Michigan, in opposition to the Republican candidate, but was defeated at the election. In 1872

General Parkhurst was unsuccessful on the Liberal ticket for Congress from the third district, but he led all the other candidates on that ticket at the election that year, a fact indicating his popularity and strong following. In 1875 he was again defeated for office when he was the Democratic candidate for state treasurer. In politics General Parkhurst was an uncompromising Democrat, and were it not for the fact that his party is in minority in Michigan he would have at various times been honored by election in high political station. He was prosecuting attorney from 1852 to 1855, and was special agent for the United States treasury department from 1867 until 1869. In September, 1886, President Cleveland appointed him minister to Belgium, which position he held until after the installation of President Harrison's administration. In 1893 President Cleveland again appointed him to public office by commissioning him postmaster of Coldwater, and he served as such until 1897, since which time he had lived retired from active participation in political affairs.

As a lawyer General Parkhurst won distinction because of the decided ability and close attention to the litigated interests entrusted to him. He was a deep thinker and close and logical reasoner, discreet in forming an opinion and modest in advancing his ideas, yet firm in their maintenance. Logical, discriminating and comprehensive, he was a formidable adversary at the bar. As early as 1849 he engaged in the insurance business in Coldwater, and throughout the enitre period of his residence in this city he continued in that business, so that at his death he was the oldest insurance agent in Coldwater, if not in Michigan.

He also devoted much time to agricultural pursuits and made judicious investments in farm lands. Beginning in 1870, he was largely engaged for two years in assisting the construction of a north and south railroad through Coldwater, and the roadbed had been completed, the bridges built and ties on the ground from Mansfield, Ohio, to Allegan, Michigan, when the financial panic of 1873 came on and defeated the enterprise. General Parkhurst was also very active in the efforts which secured the erection of the State Public School at Coldwater. He organized and helped build the gas works and was the last original stockholder of the company. In manifold ways he contributed to the upbuilding of the city and to the advancement of the interests of the community intellectually as well as morally.

General Parkhurst was a charter member of Butterworth Post No. 109, G. A. R., had been vice-president of the National Union Veterans' Association, commander of the Michigan Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, and was a member of the congress of the Loyal Legion held in Chicago in 1885. He was a member of the executive committee of the Society of the Army of the Cumberland. He was president of the Branch County Bar Association, was a member of the American Bar Association, and of the American Historical Society. Since 1881 he had been an active member of the board of directors of the Free Public Library of Coldwater, and since 1884 had been president of the board, having been unanimously elected each year for twenty-two years. From boyhood he had

been a member of the Protestant Episcopal church, and on the 18th day of April, 1852, with his prospective bride, received the rite of confirmation in St. Mark's church at Coldwater. His ideas of the duties and responsibilities of life were derived from no uncertain standard, and the principles of conduct adhered to in early life became absolute mentors of action and sentiment with him.

General Parkhurst was married three times. In 1852 he wedded Miss Amelia Noyes, a daughter of Samuel P. Noyes. She departed this life July 26, 1861, leaving two daughters. Kate Amelia, afterward Mrs. Frank C. Goodyear, is now deceased, and the younger daughter, Margaret P., is the wife of Prof. William Carey Morey, of the Rochester (New York) University. In 1863 General Parkhurst married Miss Josie B. Reeves, of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, who died in 1871. In 1874 he married Mrs. Frances J. Fiske, nee Roberts, who died in 1900.

Faultless in honor, fearless in conduct and stainless in reputation, the public life of few men extended over so long a period as that of General Parkhurst, and none had been characterized by a more unfaltering loyalty to duty or by a stricter allegiance to the principles which he believed would best further the welfare of county, state and nation.

MRS. SARAH A. SMITH.

Mrs. Sarah Annie Smith, who owns and successfully conducts a general mercantile store in South Butler, where she is also filling the position of postmistress, was born in Tecumseh, Michigan, November 30, 1843. Her parents were Alexander and Emily A. (Southworth) Dubois. Her father, who was born in Ireland March 22, 1807, came to America with his parents when eleven years of age and settled in St. Lawrence county, New York. He was one of a family of five sons and two daughters: John, Alexander, Charles, Robert, James, Maria and Jane, all of whom are now deceased. After coming to the United States the parents spent their remaining days in New York.

Alexander Dubois came to Michigan at an early day and was married in Washtenaw county, June 1, 1835, to Miss Emily A. Southworth, who was born in Canton, St. Lawrence county, New York, and was left an orphan when only two years old. When eighteen years of age she became a resident of Michigan, where she met and married Alexander Dubois. They had seven children, as follows: Robert, died in infancy. Mary E. became the wife of Charles Perine, by whom she had three children, and after the death of her first husband she married Daniel Hutchins, by whom she had three children; she was born November 13, 1840, and her death occurred June 1, 1892. Jane Dubois, born September 17, 1846, married Charles White, by whom she had one son, Fay White, and her death occurred October 7, 1888. Charles Dubois lived in Pulaski, Michigan. Two other children of the family died in infancy. In 1848 Alexander Dubois removed with his family from Washtenaw to Jackson county, Michigan, becoming identified with the pioneer development and progress of that part of the state.

Sarah Annie Dubois spent her girlhood days in Pulaski, this state, and there she was married on the 22nd of April, 1860, to David Smith, who was born there March 10, 1840, and has been a resident of Butler township since 1856. His entire life has been devoted to agricultural pursuits. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have one son, Will A. Smith, who is a cigar-maker of Coldwater. He was born in Butler township, March 17, 1863, and married Mrs. Lavina Burbank, of the same township, who by a former marriage had two children.

For six years Mrs. Smith has occupied the position of postmistress in South Butler and is also conducting a general merchandise store, transacting all the business and largely waiting on the customers herself. In the conduct of the store she became the successor of Clarence W. Hayes, a young man who lived with Mr. and Mrs. Smith after nineteen years of age till his death. He was born in Van Buren county, Michigan, April 1, 1864, and in 1886 established his store. About the same time he was appointed postmaster, holding the office up to the time of his death, which occurred March 11, 1899. He had begun business on a small scale, but gradually increased his stock to meet the growing demands of the trade, and secured a liberal patronage, which indicated his business ability and also the public regard for his business integrity and his earnest efforts to please his patrons. He was a young man of genuine personal worth, and his death was deeply deplored by many friends, for he had the esteem and good will of all with whom he came in contact. Mrs. Smith succeeded to the business, giving her entire time to the store. She is a most industrious lady and without previous business training she has taken up the management of the business and has carefully and successfully carried it on.

ALFRED PARSONS.

There are living in Branch county but few citizens who can boast a continuous residence here of nearly seventy years, and of these few we find none aside from the gentleman whose name introduces this record who are performing their accustomed duties in the full possession of their physical and mental powers. Mr. Parsons has been a resident of Coldwater township since 1836, so that he has passed more than sixty-nine years in this immediate vicinity. The days of chivalry and knighthood in Europe cannot furnish more interesting nor romantic tales than our own western history. Into the unexplored regions went brave men whose courage and endurance were often called forth to meet existing conditions. The land was rich in natural resources—in agricultural and commercial possibilities—and awaited the demands of man to yield up its treasures, but its forests were difficult to penetrate, and the Indians resented the encroachment of the "pale faces" upon their "hunting grounds". The establishment of homes in this beautiful region therefore meant sacrifices, hardships and also danger to a certain extent, but there were men and women brave enough to undertake the task of reclaiming the district for the purposes of civilization. From that stage in the history of Branch county with none of the comforts of civiliza-

tion, through the different stages of evolution to its present state of agricultural perfection, Mr. Parsons has witnessed its growth until it now comprises thousands of fine farms and has become peopled with a happy, prosperous and contented population.

Mr. Parsons is a native of Somersetshire, England, where he was born October 18, 1828. His ancestors had been residents of that country through many generations, his father being Daniel Parsons, also a native of Somersetshire, while his mother was Mary Holmes Parsons, also born in that county. They were married there and had a family of three children when they decided to try their fortunes in America. They made the voyage on a sailing vessel, in the slow and primitive manner of the times, and took up their abode in the state of New York, Alfred Parsons being then five years of age. Another child was then added to the family, which now numbered: George W. Parsons, who died in later years, in Pavilion, Kalamazoo county, Michigan; Alfred; Mrs. Lavinia Ball, who died in Kalamazoo county; and Richard, who died in infancy, in New York. The mother also died in that state in 1834, and later Daniel Parsons married Amelia Harrison. In 1835, thinking to have better business opportunities in Michigan than in New York, Daniel Parsons came to Branch county, and the following year he was joined by his family in Coldwater. Seven children were born of his second marriage, as follows: John, who died in Coldwater; Mrs. Mary Sweezy, who is living in Kalamazoo, Michigan; Mrs. Nancy Dunks, who is a resident of Coldwater; Mrs. Emily Adams, living in Oceana county, Michigan; D. W., who died in Kalamazoo county; Lewis, who died in Shelby, Michigan; Mrs. Elizabeth Goldsmith, who resides in Vicksburg, Michigan.

It was in early pioneer times that Daniel Parsons came to Branch county, where he met the usual experiences, hardships and difficulties of pioneer life. Bands of Indians were seen frequently, wild animals had their haunts in the forests, and there was much wild game to be had, furnishing many a meal for the early settlers. It was subsequent to his arrival here that Mr. Parsons married a second time. His wife was also a member of one of the first families of the county and before her marriage she was the first school teacher in the township of Girard. In the development and improvement of his farm property Mr. Parsons spent his remaining days, passing away March 4, 1851, while his wife, long surviving him, died in 1895.

Reared amid the wild scenes of frontier life Alfred Parsons had few advantages in his youth in the way of education or otherwise, but he early developed those sterling traits of industry, self-reliance and integrity which were to bring him success in after life. He early took his place in the fields, and has since been identified with agricultural interests in Branch county, achieving, through his own efforts, all the prosperity and success he has enjoyed.

On the 25th of December, 1866, Mr. Parsons was married to Miss Frances J. Eaton, a native of Dundaff, Pennsylvania, born August 22, 1846, and a daughter of Ward and Elizabeth (Ayer) Eaton, the former a native of Boston, Massachusetts, and the latter of Ireland. In 1851, some years

before his marriage, Mr. Parsons had purchased his present farm of eighty acres on section thirty-five, Coldwater township, and here he has lived continuously since, with the exception of six years in the early 60's when he made his home in the city of Coldwater. At the time of his purchase his land was a densely wooded tract, and Mr. Parsons personally took up the work of clearing away the timber and preparing the fields for the plow. He has transformed it from a wilderness to one of the best improved farms in this portion of the county, its fertile and productive fields surrounding excellent buildings, while all the machinery and farm implements necessary for the successful operation of the fields and the care of the crops is here found. His labors annually bring to him a good financial return, so that his home is now supplied with the comforts and some of the luxuries of life.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Parsons have been born three children, but only one is now living. Hattie, born November 9, 1867, died December 24, 1889, at the age of twenty-two years; Lewis, born March 18, 1878, died on the 5th of August, of the same year. Harry, born November 28, 1872, was married January 19, 1898, to Miss Pearl Gallup, and they reside on the old homestead, the son assisting in the operation of the farm. The eldest child, Hattie, died of consumption December 24, 1889. She was not long confined to the house, and sat up a little every day till within a day or two of her death. She was a warm-hearted, noble, Christian young lady, and was widely beloved, as was well attested by the throng of callers continually at the house during her illness. The funeral occurred at the Scoville school house, Revs. Collin and Martin officiating.

Mr. Parsons, although not of sturdy physique, has always been a hard-working man, and even today, in spite of his age, is as active and alert as many men of younger years. In politics he is a Republican, and although never a politician in the commonly accepted sense of office seeking, he has been prevailed upon several times to act as school officer, officiating as school director and assessor of his school district. Although of necessity a busy man, he has yet found time to broaden his mind and store it with useful knowledge, and he is progressive in his ideas and earnest in support of every forward movement for the benefit of the county where he has now lived for three score years and ten.

ROLLIN A. JOHNSON.

Rollin A. Johnson, who carries on general farming, is a native of Matteson township, Branch county, having been born on the 8th of May, 1850, on the farm on section twelve which is now his home. The name of Johnson has figured in agricultural life and public affairs in this section of the state for a long period and has ever been a synonym for good citizenship and business integrity. James O. Johnson, the father, was born in Vermont and was a son of James Johnson, Sr., who was also a native of the Green Mountain state and was a farmer by occupation. On leaving New England he removed to Ohio and subsequently came to Michigan,

taking up his abode on section twelve, Matteson township, Branch county, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land that was entirely wild and unimproved. He then undertook the arduous task of developing the property, which he cleared and cultivated. He remained upon the farm until he retired, being for long years an energetic, enterprising and prosperous agriculturist of the community. When his labors had brought to him a comfortable competence that relieved him of the necessity of further work he put aside business cares and removed to Union City, where he lived in the enjoyment of a well earned rest up to the time of his death.

His son, James O. Johnson, Jr., was about twenty years of age when he accompanied his parents to Michigan, and he assisted in the arduous task of clearing the old homestead, working with his father throughout the period of his boyhood and youth. He enjoyed such educational advantages as the district schools afforded, and after he had attained his majority he went to Ohio, where he was married to Miss Sarah Lindley, a daughter of Ephraim Lindley, who was a farmer by occupation. In the year 1851 James O. Johnson went to California by way of New York and the isthmus route and remained in that state for three years, when he returned to Michigan to find that his wife had in the meantime departed this life. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Johnson had been born four children, three sons and a daughter, of whom Rollin A. was the youngest. Following the mother's death the father returned to Ohio, and there he was married to the eldest sister of his first wife, after which he returned to the old home farm in Matteson township, Branch county, and while living there four children, a son and three daughters, were born of the second marriage, making eight children in all, who were born and reared in Matteson township. Mr. Johnson afterward traded a part of the old home farm for a place on Mill creek, where he remained for about forty years. With the exception of the period spent in California his entire life was devoted to agricultural pursuits and he was found reliable in his business methods and enterprising in all of his undertakings. His political allegiance was given to the Republican party and he held several township offices. He had a wide and favorable acquaintance throughout the county and was a member in high standing of the Masonic lodge at Bronson. He died in his eighty-fifth year, honored and respected by all who knew him. Viewed in a personal light he was a strong man, strong in his honor and his good name, in his business accomplishments and in his loyal citizenship. He was classed for many years with the leading agriculturists of his community and in addition to the tilling of the fields he also dealt extensively in horses, fine cattle and sheep.

Rollin A. Johnson acquired his education in the district schools of Matteson township and through the period of his youth remained at home, assisting his father on the farm and clearing considerable land. He lived mostly on the place by the creek, which was on section thirteen, Matteson township, and he was early trained to habits of industry, economy and integrity, which have proved of the utmost value to him in later life as he has conducted his own business interests.

On the 24th of February, 1876, Rollin A. Johnson was married to

Miss Josephine Fisk, a native of Matteson township and a daughter of Edwin Fisk, who was a farmer of that locality. Mrs. Johnson was reared and educated in this township and by this marriage there have been born five children, four sons and a daughter, but Daisy, the second child, is now deceased. The others are: Carl, Lou, Max and Rex, all of whom were born upon the farm which is now their home.

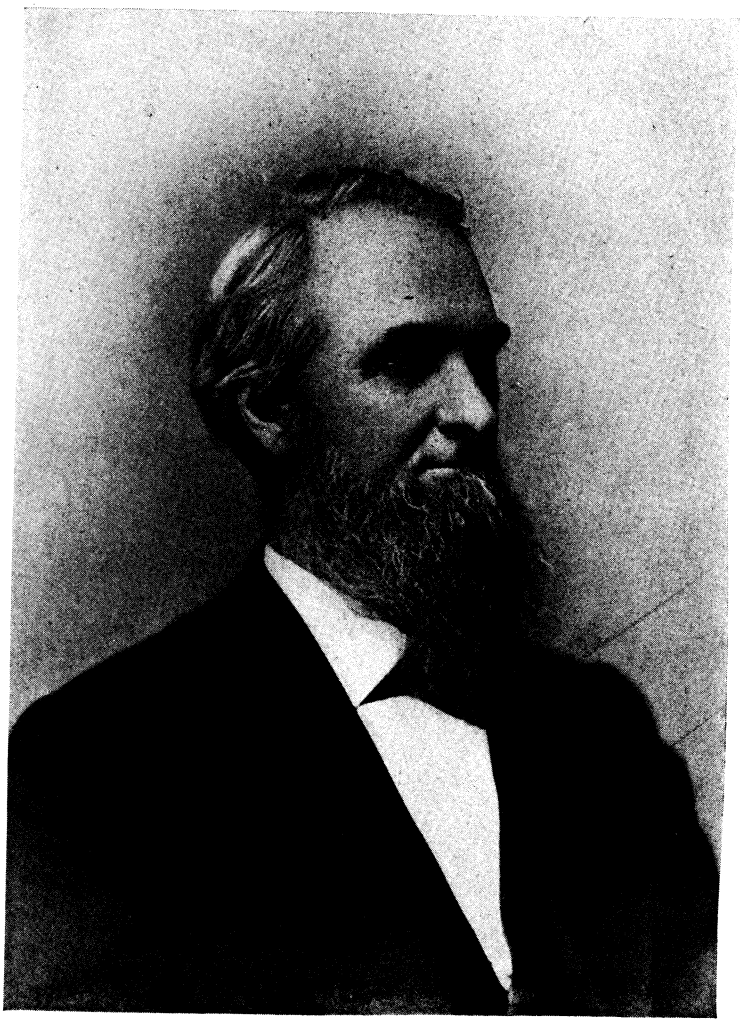
The second year after his marriage Mr. Johnson removed to the original homestead property and here he has since lived. He now has one hundred and twenty acres of land, constituting a valuable farm, which has been greatly improved by the care and labor he has bestowed upon it. He has erected all of the present buildings and modern equipments and he uses the latest improved machinery in caring for the fields. He also raises stock, and both branches of his business are proving profitable. In 1901 he was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died on the 2nd of March of that year, and the daughter died three days later. He has an interesting family of four sons, who are with him on the old homestead. In politics a Republican, he has taken some part in the work of the organization and rejoices in Republican successes. He holds membership with the Maccabees Tent at Sherwood and is well known in the county, his genuine worth having gained for him warm personal regard and friendship.

HON. CHARLES UPSON.

In an enumeration of the men who have conferred honor and dignity upon Branch county and whose life record was a credit to the state which honored him, Hon. Charles Upson deserves mention. As lawyer and legislator he won distinction and as a member of congress he proved himself a peer of many of the ablest representatives of the nation. He was born in Southington, Connecticut, April 19, 1821, and died at Coldwater, Michigan, September 5, 1885.

A son of Ashael and Lydia (Webster) Upson, he was descended from an old New England family. His father, also a native of Connecticut, was a farmer by occupation and was a man of scrupulous honor, exact in all his dealings and faithful to every obligation in life. He and his estimable wife held membership in the Presbyterian church and Mrs. Upson was a talented woman, of strong and sterling characteristics.

Charles Upson spent the first thirteen years of his life at the parental homestead and at the usual age began his education in the district schools. When a youth of thirteen he entered a select school, in which he studied diligently with a view of eventually pursuing a college course. In order to replenish his funds he engaged in teaching school when sixteen years of age, receiving for his services twelve and a half dollars per month, and in accordance with the custom of the times he "boarded round" among the scholars. For five or six years he continued teaching at intervals and in 1842 there came to him the consummation of his hope of securing a higher education. In that year he entered the academy at Meriden, where he pursued a classical course. but finally on account of limited means he abandoned the idea of entering college and resumed teaching. It was about this time that he borrowed a



Charles Upson

copy of Blackstone, which he read during his leisure hours, working on his father's farm during the summer months. Determining to make the practice of law his life work, in 1844 he was enrolled as a student in the law school at New Haven, Connecticut. At the end of that year he came to Michigan, spending the winter in Constantine in teaching and reading law, and he was thus engaged in the dual pursuit until 1847, when he was appointed deputy county clerk of St. Joseph county, and in the spring of the same year was admitted to the bar. In addition to the discharge of his official duties he engaged in practice, attending such law cases as were accorded to him by the public. He soon demonstrated his ability, however, and his clientage increased. After two years he was elected county clerk, and in 1850 he was the unsuccessful candidate for prosecuting attorney, but in 1852, having been again nominated for the office, he was elected and entered upon a two years' term in that position. Still higher political honors awaited him, for in 1854 he was elected state senator by the Whig party, serving in the upper house of the general assembly with distinction. He was active in molding constructive legislation and left the impress of his individuality upon the laws that were enacted during that session.

In 1856 Mr. Upson removed to Coldwater, where he formed a law partnership with Lieutenant Governor George A. Coe. He maintained his deep interest and activity in political matters and in 1860 he was nominated by the Republican party for the office of Attorney General of Michigan. At the general election he was given the position by popular vote, and in 1862 he received the unanimous nomination of his party for congress. He was elected that year, re-elected in 1864 and again in 1866, and for six years represented his district in the national legislature. He became an active working member of the house, with conscientious purpose and representative patriotism supporting every measure which he believed would prove of benefit to the country and opposing just as earnestly every interest which he deemed would be inimical to the general welfare. In 1869 official honors came to him in the more direct line of his profession, he being elected circuit judge of the fifteenth judicial district, but three years later he resigned on account of insufficiency of the salary. In every position of public trust he was called upon to fill he maintained his reputation as an able and incorruptible office holder. He was a member of the constitutional convention of 1873, when he assisted materially in forming the organic laws of the state. When Zachariah Chandler was secretary of the interior he tendered Judge Upson the position of Indian commissioner, but the honor was declined. In 1880 he was again elected state senator, and in 1883 he was a prominent but unsuccessful candidate for the nomination for justice of the supreme court of Michigan.

In local affairs Judge Upson was also an influential factor, and twice served as mayor of Coldwater, giving to the city a business-like and progressive administration, characterized by reform and practical improvement. In 1865 he assisted in organizing the Coldwater National Bank, and was thereafter until his death one of its directors.

On the 4th of August, 1852, Judge Upson was united in marriage to Miss Sophia Upham and they became the parents of two sons and two daugh-

ters: Alonzo Sydney; Mary, deceased; Margaret, the wife of Morris G. Clark; and Charles Hiram, who died in infancy. Judge Upson figured for many years as one of the distinguished and honored citizens of Branch county and of Michigan. Faultless in honor, fearless in conduct, stainless in reputation, such was his life record. His scholarly attainments, his statesmanship, his reliable judgment and his charming powers of conversation would have enabled him to ably fill and grace any position, however exalted, and he was no less honored in public than loved in private life.

ALONZO SYDNEY UPSON.

Alonzo Sydney Upson, son of Hon. Charles Upson, deceased, was born in Constantine, Michigan, May 25, 1855, and was only a year old at the time of his parents' removal to Coldwater. Here he was reared and educated and has spent his life. When the Michigan Southern Bank was organized in 1872 he became a bookkeeper in that institution, later was promoted to the position of teller and subsequently became cashier, thus receiving ready recognition of his ability. He is now cashier of the bank, a popular officer, whose unfailing courtesy and accommodation to the patrons have secured him many friends, while his devotion and allegiance to the institution have contributed to its success.

Mr. Upson is without political aspiration but gives unfaltering support to the principles of the Republican party. He has, however, served for several terms as treasurer of Coldwater, called to that office by the vote of the people who recognize his capability for the duties that devolve upon him in this connection. He is a member of the Bon Ami Club and holds high social relations.

STEPHEN W. KEMPSTER.

Stephen W. Kempster is now practically living retired in a comfortable home just south of the city limits of Coldwater, but is still owner of a fine and valuable farm which he improved and which returns to him a good annual income. He stands as an excellent example of the men of foreign birth who in early manhood come to America without capital but possessing laudable ambition and determined energy and through those means steadily advance to the goal of success.

Mr. Kempster was born in Buckinghamshire, England, on the 25th of November, 1847, a son of Joseph and Sarah (Wells) Kempster, both of whom were natives of England, where they spent their entire lives, the father dying there in 1851, while the mother passed away in 1857. They had three children: Stephen; Mrs. Emily Marks, now living in England; and Mrs. Eliza Peppiatt, a resident of Ovid, Michigan.

In 1867 Stephen W. Kempster came to America with his sister Eliza, locating in Ovid, and although he had no means at the time, he was energetic and resolute and his willingness to work secured him good positions, so that in the course of a few years, as the result of his earnings, he was enabled to purchase property, buying land in 1871 in Ovid township. He at once began its development and continued to improve it until 1889, when

he purchased his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Coldwater. In all of his work he has been practical, methodical and progressive, and his labor has been the resultant factor in his success.

On the 16th of December, 1873, Mr. Kempster was united in marriage to Miss Eliza Peppiatt, who was born in Buckinghamshire, England, May 12, 1842, and came to the United States with her brothers and sisters in 1867, settling in Wayne county, Michigan. Her father was Shadrach Peppiatt, while her mother bore the maiden name of Fannie Bavin, and both were natives of England. They came to Michigan in 1866, settling in Washtenaw county, where the father died in 1901, while the mother passed away in 1891. They were the parents of nine children, of whom two died in infancy, the others being Eliza, now Mrs. Kempster; Mrs. Ann Collyer, who died in Michigan; Mrs. Jane Beyers, a resident of Wayne county, Michigan; James, of Colorado; Mrs. Maria Day, Charles and Lizzie, all living in Washtenaw county, this state.

Mr. and Mrs. Kempster have a family of a daughter and three sons: Carrie, born March 26, 1875, attended the State Normal School at Ypsilanti, Michigan, and is now engaged in teaching school in the city of Coldwater; Joseph, born January 22, 1877, was graduated in chemistry at the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, and holds a responsible position in the laboratory of the Wolverine Cement Company, at Coldwater; Walter, born August 3, 1880, attended the Michigan Agricultural College at Lansing, was married August 15, 1905, to Gertie Baldridge, and now lives upon the Kempster farm in Coldwater township; and Harry, born October 9, 1883, attended the Agricultural College at Lansing, after having graduated from the high school at Coldwater in class of 1904.

In the spring of 1905 Mr. Kempster turned the management of his farm over to his son and purchased a comfortable home just south of the corporation limits of Coldwater, where he and his wife now reside. They have traveled life's journey together for a third of a century, their mutual love and confidence increasing as the years have gone by. Mr. Kempster belongs to Coldwater Grange. He has served as school assessor, but is independent in politics. In 1904 he made a visit to his old home in England, where many of his relatives yet reside. In manner he is unassuming and entirely free from ostentation, but he deserves that praise and credit which are given in recognition of genuine worth of character and successful accomplishment. Coming to America without capital, he has acquired a good competence, has carefully reared his family and given them good advantages, and now is enabled to enjoy a well-earned rest, the fruits of his former toil providing him with life's necessities and comforts.

MRS. MARY A. STOKES.

Mrs. Mary A. Stokes, now living in California township, was born in Oswego county, New York, April 4, 1827, and has therefore passed the seventy-ninth mile-stone on life's journey. Her father, Gilman Withington, was born in Cheshire county, New Hampshire, March 13, 1805, and was a

son of William Withington, who came to Michigan in 1833, and in 1836 took up his abode in Branch county, settling in Kinderhook township. Gilman Withington removed from the Old Granite state to New York, and after living for a few years in Pennsylvania, came to Michigan in the early 40's, spending his remaining days in Branch county. He was a carpenter and joiner, following these trades in the east, and after coming to the west he devoted much of his time to farming. He married Miss Philinda Gowdy, who was born in Rome, New York, November 3, 1803. Their marriage was celebrated on the 2nd of March, 1826, in the Empire state, and they became the parents of three children, one of whom died in infancy, while Celia E. died in Branch county January 1, 1845, at the age of thirteen years, leaving Mrs. Stokes as the only surviving member of the family. Both of the parents were Presbyterians and then Methodists in religious faith in early life, but in later years joined the United Brethren church. Mr. Withington was a Republican in his political views, and was the first school district officer in Algansee township, which position he filled for many years. His death occurred August 12, 1881, while his wife passed away June 7, 1885. Mary Ann Withington was a young lady of sixteen years when she accompanied her parents on their removal to this state, and she now lives upon a farm adjoining the one which her father purchased and improved on coming to the west. The land at that early day was all uncleared, and although the highways had been surveyed they were still untraveled and the roads were therefore in very poor condition. Amid pioneer surroundings, therefore, Mary A. Withington was reared. On the 4th of September, 1844, in Algansee township, she gave her hand in marriage to Amos C. Stokes, who was born in Tompkins county, New York, September 4, 1822. His father was John Stokes, also a native of the Empire state, where he was married to Miss Polly Lamphere, who was also born in New York. Four of their children reached manhood or womanhood, namely: Mrs. Lucy A. Burdick, Mrs. Polly Yates, J. Woodbury and Amos Stokes. After coming west the father and his family lived for several years in Indiana and then came to Michigan in 1842.

Amos Stokes was a farmer by occupation and cleared the land on section eighteen constituting the present home farm of his widow. Unto them was born a daughter, Araminta, whose birth occurred July 27, 1846, and who became the wife of Ferris B. Hanford, July 27, 1862. After his death she was married, on the 19th of February, 1872, to Thomas Copeland, and her own demise occurred on the 4th of March, 1894.

Mr. Stokes was a justice of the peace and school officer for many years, and his efforts in behalf of public progress and advancement were beneficial and far-reaching. He belonged to the United Brethren church and he gave his political support to the Republican party for a long period, although in his later years he became a staunch Prohibitionist and a most earnest advocate of the cause of temperance. For three months he was a soldier of the Civil war. Mrs. Stokes also belongs to the United Brethren church. Since sixteen years of age she has lived in this immediate vicinity and has there-

fore witnessed many changes here as the work of cultivation and civilization has been carried forward. She is a great reader and close observer of events and keeps well posted on the questions of the day and upon all matters of general interest, being an especially well informed woman and one well preserved for her years.

SAMUEL W. RICE.

There is, perhaps, no citizen of Branch county who has done more for the material improvement and progress of the county than has Samuel W. Rice, who has personally cleared three eighty-acre tracts of land, reclaiming it for the purposes of civilization and the uses of the white race. He is now the owner of a valuable and well-improved farm of one hundred and ninety-three acres located on section four, Coldwater township, and section three, Girard township. He was born in Wayne county, New York, on the 12th of January, 1823, his parents being Sylvester and Harriet (Warner) Rice, both of whom were natives of New York, where they were reared to adult age and were married. In their family were nine children: Philetus, who died in Coldwater township, Branch county; David, who died in Toledo, Ohio; Mrs. Lucinda Smith, whose death occurred in the township of Girard; Eber, who also died in Girard township; Samuel W., of this review; Mrs. Amanda Atwater, who died in Coldwater; Emma Jane, who is a resident of Coldwater; Russell, who died in Coldwater; and Sylvester, who passed away in Girard township. It will thus be seen that of the nine children of the father's family only two are yet living. It was in the year 1844 that the parents, Sylvester and Harriet (Warner) Rice, came with their sons and daughters to Michigan. The tide of emigration had been steadily flowing westward from New York to this state for several years and, hoping to benefit their financial condition in the new but rapidly growing district, they made their way to Homer, Calhoun county, where they resided for two years. On the expiration of that period they came to Branch county, settling in Coldwater township, thus becoming identified with its agricultural interests. The mother passed away in Coldwater township January 11, 1863, while the death of Mr. Rice occurred in Homer, Michigan, in September, 1875. The children of the family grew to manhood and womanhood here, and in the latter part of the 40's four of the brothers purchased farms in this part of the county, and here they made for themselves and their families comfortable homes.

Samuel W. Rice, reared to the occupation of farming, early became familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist, and in 1846 purchased land which was entirely wild and unimproved. It had been entered from the government by Mr. Dibble, and Mr. Rice at once began to clear and cultivate the tract. At that time this portion of Coldwater township was an almost unbroken wilderness and the work of transforming it into a habitable district was a laborious and difficult one. Personally Mr. Rice has cleared no less than three eighty-acre tracts, a work which few would care to undertake in this state.

On the 6th of November, 1873, occurred the marriage of Samuel W.

Rice and Miss Lavonia Kilborn, a native of Sherwood, Michigan, born May 17, 1842, her parents being David and Clarinda (Hawley) Kilborn, both of whom were natives of the Empire state, where they were married. The Kilborns, like the Rices, were pioneers of Branch county, and the first settlement was made in the vicinity of Sherwood, where representatives of the name have since been worthy residents. There the father, David Kilborn, who was born in 1797, died in 1870, while the mother, who was born in 1801, passed away in 1881. In their family were eleven children, as follows: Holton, who died in Sherwood; Mrs. Harriet K. Coddington, who is living in Palo Alto, California; Mrs. Eliza K. Coddington, who died in Union City, Michigan; Wallace, a resident of Coldwater township; Mrs. Mary K. Van Dievender, of California, now deceased; George, who died while serving as a soldier in the Civil war; Samuel, a resident of Union City, Michigan; Alden, who passed away in California; and Mrs. Rice. Unto the marriage of our subject and his wife has been born two children. Hattie Rice, born March 3, 1875, was married November 21, 1900, to Charles Culp. They reside in Coldwater township and have two children, Frances Josephine and Walton. William Rice, born January 26, 1879, was married November 21, 1901, to Effa Irene Bennett, born October 6, 1875, a daughter of George and Sarah (Warren) Bennett, both of whom have been residents of Branch county for many years. Mr. Bennett is still living and is a resident of Michigan, but his wife passed away August 12, 1898.

Mr. Rice has spent nearly his entire life in the locality where he yet resides, and has always commanded the high regard and esteem of his fellow-townsmen here. He has followed the occupation of farming and has done much for the development and improvement of this section. His present farm is a fine one, consisting of one hundred and ninety-three acres of fertile land located on section 4, Coldwater township, and section 33, Girard township. It is equipped with good buildings and all necessary machinery and accessories for its successful operation. It is now conducted by his son, William Rice, who is considered one of the reliable and influential young farmers of this part of the county. Although a Republican politically, Samuel Rice has never been an office seeker, preferring to give his time and energies to his business affairs. His parents were members of the Baptist church, and in that faith he was reared, but for some years he has been a professor of the spiritualist belief. His has been a long, useful and active life and he is spending the evening of his days in the consciousness of duties well performed, occupying a comfortable home on the farm which he has developed from its primitive state to its present condition of agricultural fertility. His residence in the county covers more than six decades, and he is justly classed with the honored pioneer residents here.

JOHN S. NESBITT.

Each community has its leaders—men who are molding the business development and contributing to the prosperity of their respective localities—and within this age of the world, when there is great competition and when

new conditions are continually arising, the men who are successful are alert and energetic, quickly recognizing and improving opportunities. Such a one is John S. Nesbitt, cashier of the Union City National Bank. He was born in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, December 23, 1862. His father, William G. Nesbitt, was of Scotch descent and was also born in Northumberland county, where he was reared and acquired his education. He chose farming as a life work, and upon his removal to Branch county, Michigan, settled upon a tract of land in Coldwater township, where he was engaged in general agricultural pursuits until his removal to Batavia township. Subsequently he sought a home in the far west and died in Vancouver, Washington, in the sixty-seventh year of his age. A zealous and earnest Christian man, he held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and was active and helpful in its work. He married Statira Scarlett, a native of Canada. Her father was of Irish lineage, while her mother was of Scotch descent. Mrs. Nesbitt still survives her husband and is now in the sixty-seventh year of her age. They were the parents of two sons and three daughters, all of whom are living, namely: John S., of this review; Lydia, the wife of Rev. Lida J. Wornom, of Camas, Washington; Clara, the widow of Luke Sizer, and a resident of Belleriver, Minnesota; Cora, a twin sister of Clara, and the wife of Edward Boyce, of Ballard, Washington; and R. William, who is living at Palms, Los Angeles county, California.

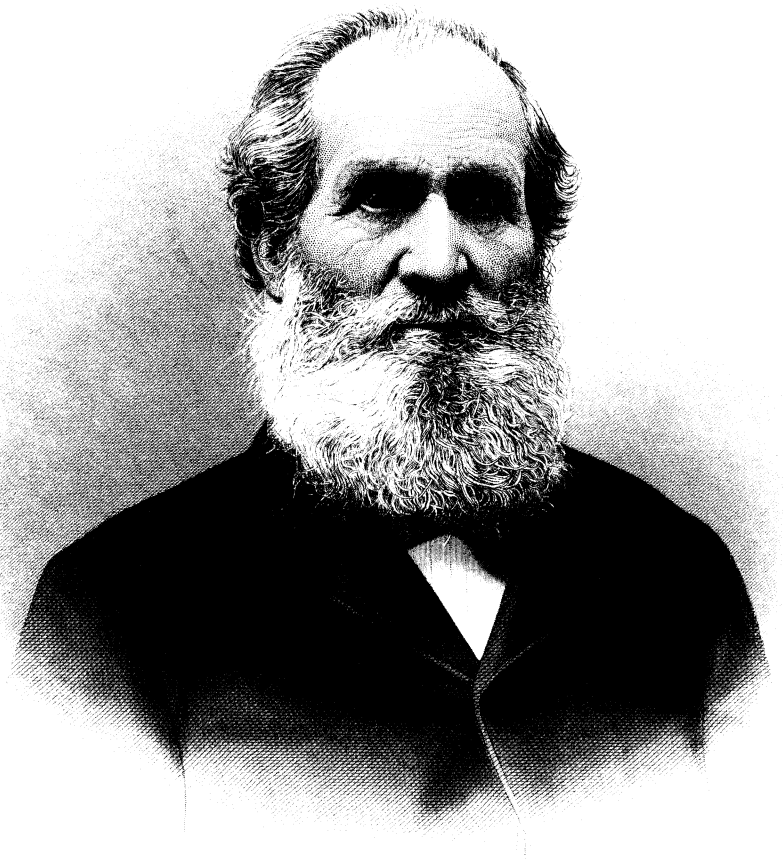
John S. Nesbitt is the only member of the family now living in Branch county. He was less than a year old when brought by his parents from the east to this county, and here he acquired his early education in the district schools, supplementing it by an advanced course in the high school at Union City. He afterward engaged in clerking in a dry goods store for three years in Union City, and in 1888 he entered the Union City National Bank as teller, which position he held until January 8, 1896. He was then elected cashier and has since acted in the latter capacity. In the intervening years he has made a close and thorough study of the banking business, with which he is now familiar both in principle and detail, and his accuracy, system and close application have rendered his services of value to the bank, while his genial manner and obliging disposition have made him popular with its many patrons.

Mr. Nesbitt was married in 1887 to Miss Lucy Lincoln, a daughter of Oscar L. Lincoln. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity, in which he has attained the Knight Templar degree, belonging to the commandery at Coldwater. He is also a Knight of the Maccabees and has been a life-long Republican. He is now active in the local work of the party, serving as chairman of the township central committee, and has held other offices. He was township clerk for two terms, in 1889 and 1890, was president of the village for three years and is now treasurer. Almost his entire life has been passed in Union City and this vicinity, and his history is therefore well known to his fellow townsmen. The fact that his friends are many and that he is popular is an indication that he has displayed many sterling characteristics such as command respect in every land and clime.

HARVEY MATTISON DOUBLEDAY.

Harvey Mattison Doubleday, a resident of Branch county from pioneer times, now living on section nine, Sherwood township, was born in Yates county, New York, July 7, 1828. His grandfather, Elisha Doubleday, who was of English descent, was born in the Empire state and throughout his business career carried on agricultural pursuits. His death also occurred in the state of New York. His father, Hiram Doubleday, was a native of Onondaga county, New York, and in 1831 he made a trip to Michigan, covering the entire distance to and from this state on foot. It was then that he entered a farm of eighty acres in Calhoun county, and in the spring of the following year he brought his family to the new home, settling on his farm in Athens township, where he built a log cabin, living in a covered wagon until the pioneer home was completed. He split the boards for the floor out of white ash logs. The little home, small in its dimensions, was sparsely furnished and the family endured the usual hardships, privations and dangers incident to frontier life. The Indians frequently visited this section of the country and various kinds of wild animals and game could be had in the forests. He remained in Calhoun county until the spring of 1837, when he removed to Sherwood township, purchasing land on section four. Here he again built a log house and began the cultivation and improvement of a farm. He continued his work there for a number of years, but his last days were spent in Union City and in the home of his son, H. M. Doubleday, his death occurring when he had reached his eighty-ninth year. Viewed from a business standpoint his life was successful, for he started out empty-handed and reared a family of six children, while accumulating a comfortable competency. His success resulted from his close application and unfaltering diligence, which enabled him to overcome all difficulties and obstacles in his path. His business affairs, too, were conducted with the strictest honesty, and he was never known to take advantage of the necessities of his fellow-men in any transaction. He always gave his political allegiance to the Democracy and he held many local offices, including those of justice of the peace and township trustee. He married Betsy Wallace, a native of New York, who lived to be about fifty years of age. Of their family of seven children a daughter died in infancy.

H. M. Doubleday, the eldest son and second child, was but three years old when brought to Michigan by his parents and was a youth of eight years when the family home was established in Branch county. When a youth he made his way to the primitive log school house, common at an early day, and therein studied the elementary branches of English learning. He had opportunity to attend school for only about three months in the winter seasons, for throughout the remainder of the year his services were needed on the home farm and he continued to assist his father until twenty-one years of age. He then started out upon an active business career, being first employed as a farm hand for the sum of ten dollars per month. He worked in this way on different farms until 1851, when, attracted by the discovery of gold in California, he made his way to the Pacific coast by the water route



Yours With Respt

A. Mat Doubleday



Yours Truly
Mrs A M Doubleday



"Idlewild", The Country Seat of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey M. Doubleday.

and the Isthmus of Panama, landing at San Francisco. He spent three years in that state engaged in mining. He worked by the month for one hundred dollars, and after a residence of three years in the far west he returned in 1854, by way of Graytown, New Orleans and Cincinnati, to Sherwood township, Branch county. While in California he had purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Sherwood township, thus investing his earnings in the mines. This property he still owns, and he has also about forty acres across the road on section ten. At other times he has made additional purchases until he now has three hundred acres of land in one body, consisting of his home farm and one hundred and twenty acres in Athens township, Calhoun county, another tract of eighty acres in Athens township and one hundred and thirty acres on section twenty-one, Sherwood township, making in all about six hundred and twenty acres of land. He also has an excellent farm of one hundred acres in Kalamazoo county, and is the owner of two houses and lots in Battle Creek. The greater part of this has been acquired through his own labor, his success being the merited reward of his efforts. He is indeed a man of excellent business capacity and his labors have been so discerningly directed along well defined lines that he seems to have realized at any one point the utmost possibility for accomplishment at that point. He has been interested in three different banks, one in Athens, one in Union City, and the Exchange Bank at Sherwood, but he has now severed his connection with these different institutions.

In 1857 Mr. Doubleday was married to Miss Nancy L. Blackman, a daughter of Simeon and Emma (Spencer) Blackman, and a native of Concord, Jackson county, Michigan, born May 16, 1842. She has spent most of her life in Sherwood township, Branch county, and has become the mother of five children, but only two are living, Hiram S., and Ovid M., who married Flora Hagenbaugh, and lives in Athens township, Calhoun county.

Mr. and Mrs. Doubleday have one of the most beautiful country seats in North Branch county, and the home is adorned by works of art, in pictures and bric-a-brac. This country seat is known far and near by the name "Idlewild."

They have traveled in the far west a great deal, and in their wanderings they have selected a large collection of beautiful shells from the Pacific coast, specimens of which are rare, besides different growths of cactus. He has one of the finest specimens of deer's head, shot by his son Ovid, which adorns the walls of the parlor. He has a section of a pine tree in which a minie ball is embedded. This was cut from a pine tree on the battlefield of Chattanooga, a relic of the Civil war.

Among his rare specimens is a seven-legged pig, preserved in alcohol. The deer antlers which deck the hall are proofs of the chase. There is also to be seen a genuine Mexican sombrero, as well as a lariat made of horse hair. These and many other rare specimens of curiosity grace the spacious rooms of this country seat. In the sitting room, upon the wall, hangs a large engraving of Mr. Doubleday driving a yoke of oxen, in the true pioneer style. These oxen were twins and were reared and broken by Mr. Doubleday and his son Hiram on his farm. This team of oxen won the blue ribbon, and

when they were marketed for the eastern markets they weighed four thousand one hundred and fifty pounds and were said by competent judges to be the finest pair of steers ever shipped from Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Doubleday have made two visits to California, spending the winter there, and Mr. Doubleday also went once with his brother and again alone, so that he has four times visited the Pacific coast. His political views are in accord with Democratic principles. He has practically made his home in this county since 1837, covering a period of sixty-eight consecutive years. People of the present period can scarcely realize the struggles and dangers which attended the early settlers, the heroism and self-sacrifice of lives passed upon the borders of civilization, the hardships endured and the difficulties overcome. The tales of the early days will be almost like a romance to those who have known only the modern prosperity and convenience. To the pioneer of the early days far removed from the privileges and conveniences of city or town, the struggle for existence was a stern and hard one and these men and women must have possessed indomitable energy and sterling worth of character, as well as marked physical courage, when they first voluntarily selected such a life and successfully fought its battles under such circumstances as prevailed in the northwest. To this class Mr. Doubleday belonged, but unlike many others he has been permitted to see and enjoy the present prosperity and progress of his adopted county, in which he is now a most honored citizen.

CHAUNCEY M. VAN EVERY.

Among the leading and highly respected citizens of Bronson, Michigan, is found Chauncey M. Van Every, whose identity with the business activity of the town covers several decades.

Mr. Van Every was born in Galway, Saratoga county, New York, May 22, 1833, son of Matthias and Rebecca (Crapo) Van Every, the former a descendant of Holland ancestry and the latter of French. His mother died when Chauncey M. was four years old. Matthias Van Every was a native of Greenbush, New York, born August 3, 1809, and was engaged in farming in that state until 1846, when he came to Michigan and settled at Coldwater, where for years he was engaged in the foundry business, and where he died at a ripe old age in 1889. Of his children we record that a son Joseph, who served under General Grant in the Civil war, was killed in battle at Fort Gibson; a daughter, Rebecca M., died in Coldwater, Michigan; and another daughter, a half sister of Chauncey M., is a resident of Saratoga county, New York.

Chauncey M. Van Every spent the most of his boyhood working in his father's foundry at Coldwater. His advantages for obtaining an education were limited to a few months' schooling during the year, but he made the best of his opportunities both in the school room and in the workshop. At the age of twenty-one we find him foreman of a foundry at La Fayette, Indiana. After spending several years in the foundry business at La Fayette and Coldwater, he came to Bronson and started a business

of his own, which he conducted twelve years, during that time having several partners. Returning to Coldwater, he established himself in a foundry business under the firm name of C. M. Van Every and Company. At the end of three years he purchased his partner's interest, and the next four years the business was conducted under the name of C. M. Van Every & Sons. In 1881 he sold out and came back to Bronson, where, the following year, he opened up a foundry and machine shop. This business he sold in 1889, and since that date has been engaged in the real estate and insurance business. He was elected a justice of the peace in April, 1904.

June 19, 1854, in La Fayette, Indiana, Mr. Van Every married Miss Jennie A. Coffin, a daughter of Nathaniel and Pollie (Woodworth) Coffin. Of the six children born to them, three, Charles, Fred and Florence, are deceased; Walter is a resident of Bay City, Michigan; Chauncey M., Jr., was until recently superintendent of a cement plant in Bronson; and Clifford J. lives in Sioux City, Iowa.

Mr. Van Every maintains fraternal relations with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and for years has been one of the active workers in and stanch supporters of the Baptist church.

WILLIAM M. TYLER.

William M. Tyler is one of the prominent old settlers of Branch county, having for many years been a witness of the changes that have occurred as the work of development and improvement has been carried forward. He came to the county when it was a wild district, few settlements having been made within its borders, but time and man have wrought great changes and Mr. Tyler is numbered among those who has ably assisted in the work of general improvement. He now resides on section 14, Batavia township, where he owns a good farm.

A native of New York, his birth occurred in Oswego county on the 9th of March, 1833, and he represents one of the old New England families. His paternal grandfather was Asa Tyler, who was born in Vermont and at an early day removed to New York, where he followed the occupation of farming. His son, Morgan L. Tyler, father of our subject, was born in Oswego county, pursued his education there and was married in that county to Miss Elizabeth Grove, a native of New York. They came to Michigan in 1837, casting in their lot with the pioneer settlers of Branch county. Mr. Tyler took up land from the government in Batavia township and shared in the hardships of frontier life, while developing and improving his farm. He continued to own and cultivate that property up to the time of his death, which occurred when he was eighty-two years of age. He was a public-spirited man, and in politics was an old-line Whig until the dissolution of that party, when he joined the ranks of the new Republican party. He served as supervisor of his township both before and after the Civil war, and he was a stanch advocate of the Union and believed in the policy of the administration during the period of hostilities. He had a very wide and favorable acquaintance in the county and is numbered among the real founders and promoters of this section of the state

because of the helpful part which he took in reclaiming the district for the uses of civilization. His wife died in Branch county, at the age of seventy-eight years. She was a daughter of John Grove, who was of "low Dutch" descent.

In the family of Mr. and Mrs. Tyler were eight children, of whom William M. Tyler was the second child and second son. He was four years of age when the parents came to Branch county, Michigan, and in the common schools of Batavia township he acquired his education. Through much of the year, however, he assisted his father in the work of the home farm and aided in the development of the land and the care of the crops until 1862, when he could content himself no longer at home while his country's safety was in danger. He, therefore, enlisted in Company C, Nineteenth Michigan Infantry, and eventually was promoted from private to the rank of corporal and afterward was made first lieutenant of Company E, subsequent to which time he received a captain's commission. He participated in many battles, and at Spring Hill was captured and taken to Libby prison, but was afterward paroled and taken to the rebel hospital, where he remained for thirty-six days. After a few months he joined his company at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and the next battle in which he participated was at Resaca, Georgia, where he sustained a flesh wound through the thigh, being then sent to the hospital at Louisville. He rejoined his regiment on the day that Atlanta surrendered, and he afterward took part in the battle of Averysboro and Bentonville, North Carolina. He was at Washington and participated in the grand review, where the victorious army marched through the streets of the city and passed the stand on which the president watched the return of the country's loyal soldiers. He was acting as quartermaster at that time, and he received his honorable discharge at Detroit, Michigan, in July, 1865, after which he returned to his home in Branch county and engaged in farming.

Mr. Tyler was married in 1865 to Miss Parley J. Holcomb, the daughter of Warren Holcomb and a native of New York, whence she came with her parents to Branch county about 1847. Her death occurred in 1894. By this marriage there were five children: Morgan L., of Coldwater township; Warren H., who is living in Batavia township; Charles G., also of that township; Harry, who died in infancy; and Carl, who is at home with his father.

Mr. Tyler located on section sixteen, Batavia tonship, where he engaged in general farming until 1891. He then sold out and located, in 1904, where he now resides on section thirteen, Batavia township. He has been a life-long Republican and has always been active in support of the party. His first presidential vote was cast for General John C. Fremont, and he has voted for each presidential candidate since that time, nor has he missed a public caucus or election since the war. He is recognized as one of the strong and stalwart supporters of the party in his locality, and he served for eleven years as supervisor of Batavia township, being the only one to fill the office for so long a term save one other. He was likewise township treasurer, and his political duties have been discharged in a

most capable, prompt and efficient manner. He is a charter member of Butterworth Post No. 109, G. A. R., and maintains pleasant relationships with his old army comrades, greatly enjoying the campfires. For sixty-nine years he has been a resident of Batavia township and now he has retired from active work, enjoying a well earned rest from labor. He has passed the Psalmist's span of three score years and ten, having attained the age of seventy-two years, and his life has been an honorable and upright one, while in matters of citizenship he has ever displayed the same loyalty that marked his career as a soldier when on southern battle-fields he aided in defense of the Union.

SAMUEL GARDNER.

Samuel Gardner is numbered among the early settlers of Matteson township and is now following farming within its borders, his home being on section eleven. He was born in the state of New York, September 2, 1835, and is a son of Hiram Gardner, who is represented elsewhere in this work. When about two years of age Samuel Gardner was brought by his parents to Michigan, the family home being established in Branch county on the farm where he yet resides. Here he was reared and his education was acquired in one of the old-time log school houses with its crude desks and benches and its primitive methods of instruction. He remained at home until twenty-one years of age, when he left the farm and went to Illinois. He thence made his way to Kansas and was absent from Michigan for about a year, after which he returned to the old farm, where he has remained continuously since. He aided in clearing the land and the task was an arduous one, but his persistency of purpose has been one of his strong characteristics and in all of his farm work he has displayed a capability and determination that have been commendable and have also been resultant factors in his success. He now owns one hundred and forty acres of land, which is highly cultivated and improved, and he has good buildings upon his place and all modern equipments, so that his farm is in keeping with a model property of the twentieth century.

On the 16th of January, 1871, Mr. Gardner was united in marriage to Miss Emogene Jumph, a daughter of Erastus Jumph, a farmer of Branch county. Three daughters were born unto them.

On the 27th of January, 1895, Mr. Gardner wedded Mrs. Elcena (Green) Smith, the widow of Seth Smith, a farmer of Matteson township, and a daughter of Benjamin Green, who was a native of Jefferson county, New York. Mrs. Gardner was born in Brownville, Jefferson county, and was reared and married there, coming to Branch county in 1865. She taught school in Matteson township for about eight terms and was recognized as a capable educator. The three daughters of the family are: Mabel, now the wife of C. L. Wood; Grace and Eva. All were born and reared upon the old family homestead. Mr. Gardner has always been a Democrat and upon the party ticket was elected to the office of justice of the peace. He has a very wide acquaintance, being known to nearly everybody in the

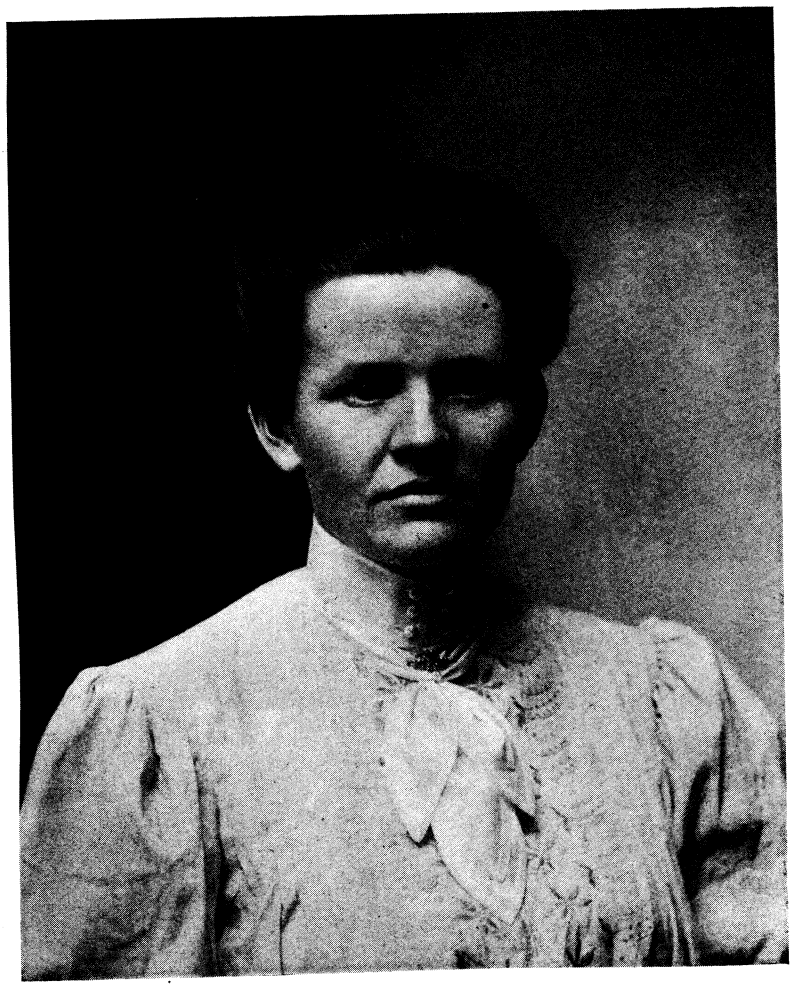
county, and those with whom he has come in contact recognize his genuine worth and many good qualities, which have awakened their confidence, admiration and regard.

JOHN PRIDGEON, JR.

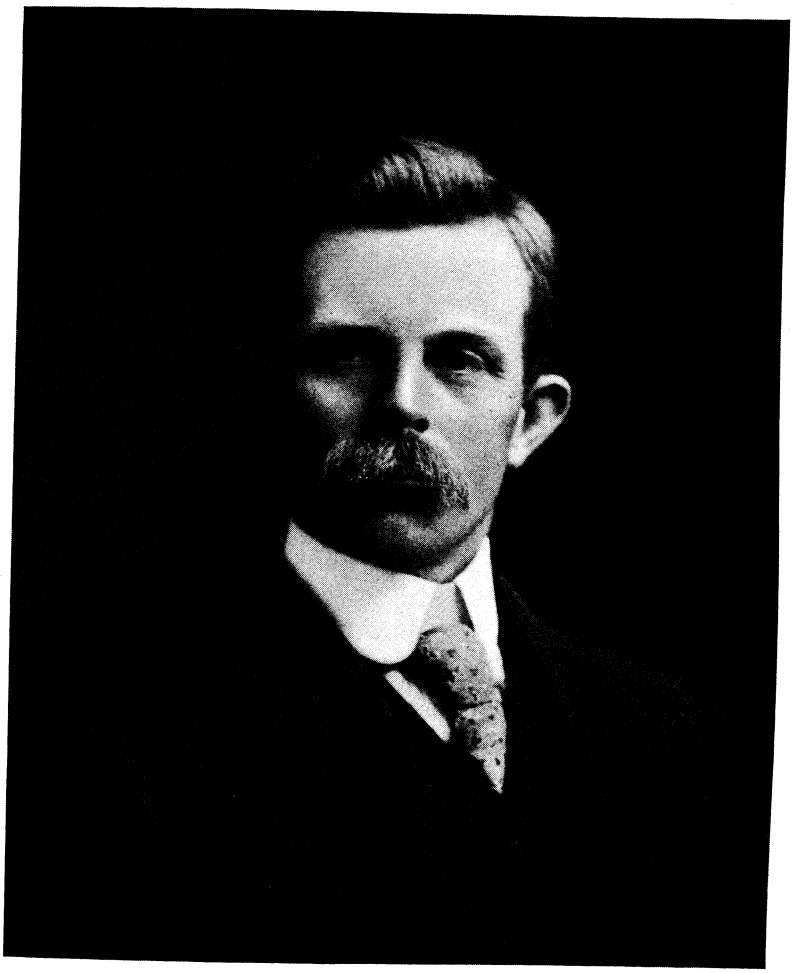
Upon a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section two, California township, resides John Pridgeon, Jr., and his father, John Pridgeon, Sr. The latter was born in Detroit, Michigan, August 3, 1833, and was brought to Branch county, Michigan, by his parents in 1836. His father was Joshua Pridgeon, a native of Lincolnshire, England, in which county the birth of Mrs. Susan Belle Pridgeon, wife of Joshua Pridgeon, also occurred. They were married in England and soon afterward crossed the Atlantic to America, hoping to improve their financial condition in the new world with its broader business opportunities. They settled in Pennsylvania, where they lived for a few years and then came to Michigan, arriving in Detroit about 1825. There they spent eight years, and during that time Joshua Pridgeon came to Branch county and entered a claim from the government of one hundred and sixty acres. In 1836 he brought his family here, took up his abode upon his claim and began clearing the land. In connection with general farming he became widely known as a stock-raiser and dealer. He was a breeder of Devonshire cattle and also of blooded sheep and good horses. He and his wife spent their remaining days upon the farm, his death occurring in 1875, while she passed away in 1884. They were typical pioneer residents, sharing in the usual experiences of life on the frontier and extending cordial hospitality to friend and stranger. In the active work of subduing a wild district Mr. Pridgeon took a helpful part and is classed with the pioneer settlers whose labors have made possible the present advanced condition of the county. Unto him and his wife were born seven children, all of whom reached years of maturity, namely: George, who died in this county; Joshua, who died in Hillsdale county, Michigan; John, father of our subject; Samuel, who lives in Isabella county, this state; Abram, a resident of California township, Branch county; Isaac, deceased; and Jacob, who is living in Algansee township.

John Pridgeon, Sr., was a little lad of but three years when brought by his parents to Branch county, and here his youth was passed amid pioneer surroundings. He lived here at the period when most of the homes were log cabins, when much of the land was covered with dense timber, and when the work of farming was carried on in but a slight degree. He was married in 1858 to Miss Eunice Lease, a native of California township, whose father was Julius Lease, who came to the county in 1839, and whose mother was a Diamond. There were three children born of this marriage: Benjamin, who is now residing in Seattle, Washington; Henry, a resident of Kalamazoo, Michigan; and Mrs. Emma Lazenby, of Hillsdale county. After the death of his first wife Mr. Pridgeon was again married, his second union being with Mary Shannon. Their only child is the subject of this review. The mother died in 1875.

John Pridgeon, Sr., started out in life on his own account when twenty-



Mrs John Pridgeon



Dr John Bridgeman

one years of age, and soon afterward purchased his present farm of eighty acres. While paying for it he lived at home. He has always carried on general agricultural pursuits, making his home continuously in California township, and his labors have been rewarded with a gratifying competence. He has cleared many acres of new land and has undergone all the difficulties incident to the establishment of a home on the frontier. He saw the first school house built in the township and he lived here when there were no roads aside from the old Indian trails. He went forty miles to mill and also a long distance to market, but the early settlers depended largely upon what they could raise upon their farms, having few of the conveniences and comforts which are now regarded as essential at this present period of our modern civilization. In community affairs he has been deeply and helpfully interested and has served as highway commissioner. His memory forms a connecting link between the primitive past and the progressive present and he relates many interesting incidents of the early days when the mode of life was very dissimilar to that of the present time. In his farm work he used crude machinery, much of the labor of tilling the fields and caring for the crops being done by hand.

John Pridgeon, Jr., was born June 26, 1872, upon the farm where he yet resides, and it has been his home continuously since. Under his father's direction he worked in the fields and his education was acquired in the district schools. On the 31st of January, 1891, he wedded Miss Mollie Kimmell, who was born in Defiance county, Ohio, on the 2d of January, 1873. Her father, Columbus Kimmell, was born in Richland county, Ohio, in April, 1832, and was of German descent. He wedded Mary Dean, who was born in Richland county in November, 1841. He had lived in Ohio until about 1886, and then removed to Hillsdale county, Michigan, where both he and his wife now reside. They became the parents of eight children, four of whom are now living: Joseph, I. W. and Maude, all residents of Hillsdale county; and Mrs. Pridgeon. John and Mollie (Kimmell) Pridgeon have four children: Glenn D., Lester A., William Harold and Mary W., constituting a bright and interesting family. Mr. Pridgeon belongs to the California Tent of Maccabees, while his wife affiliates with the Ladies of the Maccabees. He is a representative of one of the oldest families of the township, and the work which was begun by his grandfather and continued by his father is still being carried on by him. The name of Pridgeon has long stood for agricultural progress and loyal citizenship and the subject of this review is a worthy representative of the family.

IRA D. JOHNSON.

Ira D. Johnson, one of the well known and highly esteemed business men of Coldwater and Branch county, has spent the greater part of his life here and is known as an upright, reliable and capable man, possessing the regard and confidence of his fellow-citizens. He gives his time and attention to the operation of a flour mill at Branch, a few miles west of the city of Coldwater, and has made it a profitable industry.

Mr. Johnson is a native of Huron county, Ohio, where he was born October 17, 1847, and both his paternal and maternal ancestors were residents of the Empire state. His father, Dr. Lewis Johnson, was a native of Greene county, New York, born December 11, 1820, while the mother, who bore the maiden name of Emily Bainbridge, was born in the state of New York, February 15, 1825. They were married in Huron county, Ohio, May 28, 1840, and there resided until the spring of 1866, when they came to Michigan, where their remaining days were passed. They were the parents of four children, all of whom grew to manhood and womanhood, namely: Mrs. Adeline Purdy, who was born March 26, 1841, and died in Tarrytown, New York, in June, 1886; Ira D., of this review; Mrs. Jennie Kennedy, who was born March 3, 1861, and is a resident of the city of Coldwater; and Loren H., who was born March 23, 1851, and is now living in Idaho. The father, Dr. Lewis Johnson, engaged in the practice of medicine in Ohio for a number of years, and after coming to Michigan entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal church and for some years devoted his time to preaching the gospel. He also carried on farming during that period, living at different times in Butler, Quincy and Coldwater townships, Branch county. He was a man of strong intellectual endowments and liberal education and his influence was a potent element for good in the various communities in which he made his home. Throughout Branch county and wherever he was known he was held in the highest esteem, and his death, which occurred June 16, 1904, was deeply deplored by many who knew him, and who still cherish his memory. His wife passed away May 26, 1899.

Ira D. Johnson spent the greater part of his youth in the county of his nativity, and when about nineteen years of age came with his parents to Michigan. He was reared upon the home farm and has followed agricultural pursuits for many years, although at the same time he has engaged in various other business interests. In his early manhood he learned the cabinetmaker's trade, to which he has since devoted considerable attention. In 1871 he went to the west, remaining in Iowa and Nebraska until 1890. Not long after he took up his abode in the west he met and married Miss Mary Irene Card, the wedding being celebrated on the 10th of September, 1873. She was born in Broome county, New York, April 9, 1854, a daughter of Ezra and Lucy (Stoughton) Card, both of whom were natives of Broome county. They were married there and became the parents of four children: Mrs. Ellen M. Bartholomew, a resident of Missouri; Mason L. Card, who is living in Tacoma, Washington; Clayton Card, who makes his home in Grinnell, Iowa; and Mrs. Johnson, of this review. The Card family removed from the state of New York to Wisconsin in 1850, and afterward remained in the middle west, Mrs. Card dying in Iowa, in April, 1873, while Mr. Card passed away there in 1880.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Ira Johnson have been born five children: Loren L. Johnson, born May 5, 1875, and now residing in Coldwater, was married in Quincy, Michigan, April 10, 1901, to Miss Zae Parkinson. They have one son, Darrell, who was born June 20, 1905. Harry E. Johnson,

the second son, born February 8, 1878, was married November 15, 1899, to Miss Ethel Chase, and their home is in Batavia, this county. They have two children, Chase, born December 27, 1900, and Ira Dean, born April 15, 1903. Jennie M. Johnson, born December 27, 1879, is at home. Irene E. Johnson, born November 5, 1886, died September 8, 1887. Lloyd C., who completes the family, was born October 16, 1899, and is with his parents.

Since 1899 Mr. Johnson has owned and operated the flouring mill at Branch, a few miles west of Coldwater. This property has been placed in excellent shape and Mr. Johnson has built up a fine trade, owing to the satisfactory product of the mill and his straightforward business dealings. The mill is equipped with modern machinery and is provided with both water and steam power, the latter being required only occasionally. The Branch mill has been long in operation, but it has never been more popular with the general public than under the present management, and the business is now proving profitable, returning to Mr. Johnson and his family a comfortable living. They occupy a pleasant home near the mill.

Mr. Johnson has frequently been called upon to fill positions of public trust and responsibility. He has served as justice of the peace for several terms, both in Michigan and Nebraska, and has been a school officer for many years. He likewise belongs to the Grange, and both he and his wife are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He has a wide acquaintance in Branch county and stands high in the esteem of his fellowmen, because of his well known fidelity to every cause he espouses and his allegiance to honorable, manly principles.

WILLIAM ADDISON STANTON.

William Addison Stanton, following farming on section three, Sherwood township, was born on section nine of this township on the 12th of September, 1836, and is undoubtedly the oldest native son of Branch county now living within its borders. His memory forms a connecting link between the primitive past and the progressive present. He is familiar with all the history of development and progress here, and what to many are matters of record are to him occurrences of which he has been a witness or a participant. His father, John Stanton, was a native of New York, and with his family arrived in Branch county in the spring of 1836, locating on section nine, Sherwood township, where he secured a tract of raw land. Not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made on the place, but he at once began to clear the fields for cultivation and in due time harvested rich crops. He was among the first settlers of the county and he aided materially in the pioneer development and later improvement of this section of the state. He married Susan Waldron, also a native of New York, and his death occurred in his fifty-third year, while his wife lived to be sixty-six years of age. They were the parents of twelve children, of whom William A. is the youngest, and only three are now living, the sisters being Clarissa and Lydia, the former the wife of Oscar Lincoln of Union township.

William A. Stanton was reared in Sherwood township and attended school held in a little log building furnished after the primitive manner of the times. The curriculum, too, was very limited, the pupils gaining scarcely more than a knowledge of reading, writing and arithmetic, although grammar and geography were also taught. Experience and observation, however, have greatly broadened the mind of Mr. Stanton and his reading has kept him in touch with the progress of the world. In early manhood he and his brother Edward, now deceased, began operating the old homestead farm together, and continued its development until 1868, when they divided the land. In the meantime they had added four hundred and twenty acres. They purchased the farm now valued at sixteen thousand dollars for one thousand dollars and borrowed the money with which to make the purchase. The tract, comprising three hundred and fifty-six acres, was all paid for within six years' time, and when the brothers divided this property William A. Stanton retained possession of the three hundred and fifty-six acres, while his brother took the four hundred and twenty acre tract. The subject of this review continued general farming upon his place until 1884, when he located on a farm in Union township, his son continuing upon the old homestead. He then remained a resident of Union township until 1904, when he returned to the other farm. He is now the owner of five hundred and ninety-six acres of valuable land, all of which lies in Branch county with the exception of one hundred and twenty acres in Calhoun county. He sold one farm in Calhoun county in 1902 for twelve thousand dollars cash. He has been a stock buyer, shipping horses to Boston, New York, Buffalo, Chicago, and other large cities, and has been very successful in this line of business.

In 1860 William A. Stanton was united in marriage to Miss Susan Robinson, a daughter of Elijah and Fannie (Blodgett) Robinson. She was born in New York and was brought by her parents to Branch county when a little maiden of five summers. Mr. and Mrs. Stanton have become the parents of six children: Grove, now deceased; Guy, a speculator of Union township; Gay, who is engaged in dealing in horses in Union township; Gar, of Jackson, Michigan; Effie, the wife of C. H. Johnson, a music teacher; and Gib W., at home.

Mr. Stanton has been a life-long Republican, voting for every presidential nominee of the party. He has held some local offices, but has never aspired to political preferment, desiring rather to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs, in which he has met with signal success. He has watched Branch county develop from a wild county with only a few white inhabitants, to a rich agricultural district containing thousands of good homes and many enterprising towns inhabited by industrious, prosperous, enlightened and progressive people. He has participated in and assisted the slow, persistent work of development which was necessary to produce the wonderful change that has been wrought, and at all times his aid has been counted upon in matters of progressive citizenship. That he has prospered is indicated by his valuable landed possessions at the present time, and his success is the merited tribute of his own labor.

THOMAS P. EVENS.

Thomas P. Evens, who is probably the oldest living resident of Butler township in years of continued connection therewith, was born in Newstead, Erie county, New York, on the 24th of December, 1834, his parents being Charles and Hannah (Edmonds) Evens, both of whom were natives of New York, in which state they were married. They were the parents of three children when they came to Michigan in July, 1837. The mother had been married twice previous to her marriage to Mr. Evens, her first husband being a Mr. Holmes, who died in the Empire state, and by whom she had four daughters: Mrs. Lucinda Mills, Mrs. Amanda White, Mrs. Caroline Bennett and Mrs. Louise Lampman, all of whom became residents of Branch county. Her second husband was a Mr. Wright, and after his death she married Charles Evens. They were among the first New York state people to locate in Branch county, and after a residence of four years here Mr. Evens returned to the Empire state, where he soon afterward died. Their children were: Hiram, who was a soldier of the Civil war and died in Savannah, Georgia, in 1864; and Thomas P., of this review. Mrs. Evens passed away in Quincy, Michigan, in 1868.

Thomas P. Evens was reared to manhood among pioneer surroundings in Butler township and has here since lived, having been only three years of age when brought to Branch county by his parents. He acquired his education in the public schools and early became familiar with the labors of the farm. After attaining his majority he was married, March 31, 1860, at Hillsdale, Michigan, to Miss Frances J. Turner, who was born in the state of New York, September 22, 1843, a daughter of Royal Turner, a native of Connecticut, who served in the war of 1812, and whose wife bore the maiden name of Julia A. Hubbard. Mr. Turner, whose birth occurred in 1788, passed away in Butler on the 18th of October, 1864, and his wife died in October, 1901, the county thus losing two of its honored pioneer settlers. The Turners became residents of Jackson county, Michigan, at an early day, but afterward returned to New York, and in May, 1854, became permanent residents of Branch county, Michigan, where Mr. Turner purchased land on section twenty-nine, Butler township. He afterward devoted his remaining days to agricultural pursuits, and was regarded as one of the prominent and valued citizens of the community. In his family were the following named sons and daughters: Josephine, who died in Jackson county, Michigan, in infancy; Jerome, who was a member of the United States navy during the Civil war, and died in the '60s; William, who is living in Girard; Mrs. Julia Gee, who died in Butler township in 1860; Mrs. Frances Evens; and George W. Turner, who is living in Butler.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Evens has been blessed with one son, M. L. Evens, who was born in Butler, February 24, 1865. He was reared to manhood on the home farm and acquired a literary education, including a course of study in Hillsdale College at Hillsdale, Michigan. On the 31st of December, 1890, he wedded Miss Kittie Willard, of Butler. He is now general agent in western Michigan for the Lamb Fence Company, of

Adrian, Michigan, and travels most of the time, although he still operates the home farm in Butler. He is considered one of the expert fence men of the state, having a splendid record for large sales. He makes his home in Coldwater.

Thomas P. Evens has probably resided longer in Butler township than any other resident, practically his entire life being passed here. His identification therewith covers sixty-eight years, and he has therefore been a witness of almost the entire growth and development of the county, his mind forming a connecting link between the primitive past and the progressive present. He is a man whom it is a pleasure to know, being intelligent and progressive, and though his educational privileges in youth were limited his native intelligence and attainments have made him one of the well informed men of his community. He is a forceful speaker and has the courage of his convictions and his loyalty to his friends and the principles he espouses is one of his strong and salient characteristics. In politics he has been an ardent Republican since the organization of the party, and is regarded as an authority on political questions in this part of the county. He attended the first election in Butler township and has missed but one since then. He always attends the primaries and never misses a Republican county convention, almost invariably going as a delegate. His first presidential vote was cast for Fremont in 1856. He was chosen highway commissioner of Butler township in 1858, and has since held the office much of the time. He has been constable for numerous terms, as well as deputy sheriff of the county, and in all life's relations is found true to the trust reposed in him.

GEORGE GREENWOOD.

George Greenwood, of Coldwater, was born on the 12th of August, 1833, near Manchester, England, and pursued his education at a place called Rochdale. He enjoyed the advantages afforded by the district schools, and when he had put aside his text-books he learned the weaver's trade. Following that pursuit he also filled the position of timekeeper, and to those lines of business he owed his living in early life.

Before leaving his native country Mr. Greenwood was married, on the 7th of September, 1857, to Miss Harriet Taylor, who died in this country about six months after their emigration to America, passing away in 1863. She left one daughter, Amanda, who died March 12, 1904. On the 28th of April, 1864, Mr. Greenwood was again married, his second union being with Deborah Mountford, who was born in New Castle, Stratfordshire, England, on the 7th of October, 1836. She was reared in the land of her nativity until twenty-five years of age and came to America with an uncle. She has been a resident of Coldwater for forty-three years and is one of the well known citizens here. In 1875 her uncle died and left her a considerable legacy. This she gladly put into her husband's hands, to be used by him in his business, and Mr. Greenwood gratefully acknowledges how much he owes for his success to his wife's generous and wise co-operation.

Mr. Greenwood arrived in America in 1862 and took up his abode on

North Monroe street when he came to this city. Here he worked at any employment that would yield him an honest living and later, when his industry and frugality had brought to him some capital, he engaged in the bakery business, which he followed until 1879. Since that time he has been connected with various business enterprises, and he now owns several valuable tracts of land in Branch county and also property in the city, including three store buildings and three dwellings. He has thus placed his money in the safest of all investments—real estate—and the rental from his property now brings him a good income.

Mr. Greenwood has served as a member of the city council for two years, and has always given his political support to the Republican party. He is a member of the Episcopal church of Coldwater and has belonged to the choir since 1863. He is deeply interested in everything pertaining to the growth of the church and the extension of its influence, and has manifested a helpful part in promoting improvement and upbuilding along various lines here. Since coming to this country he has won the proud American title of a self-made man, for he had no capital when he reached Coldwater. He possessed, however, strong determination, laudable ambition and unfaltering energy, and he has steadily worked his way upward. His business career has ever been straightforward, and though he has met many reverses and obstacles he has overcome these by determined effort. His industry has been the key which has unlocked the portals of success and now, in the evening of life, he is in possession of valuable property interests which class him with the substantial residents of his adopted country.

CHARLES A. TOMPKINS.

The name of Tompkins is inseparably associated with the history of Girard township, as members of this family were among the very first settlers of this section to come from New York state and participate in the subduing of the wilderness. Although the elder generation of these pioneers has with but one exception, Mrs. Mary Marsh Tompkins, passed away, nevertheless many of their descendants still reside here and are enjoying the privileges and benefits so bravely struggled for by their parents and grandparents.

Three brothers of the Tompkins family, which had lived in New York state for many generations previously, came to Michigan in the thirties, their names being James, Abram and Moses Tompkins. James was the first of the Tompkins family to be attracted by the middle west, and he arrived here several years before his brothers. Elsewhere in this volume a complete account is given of his participation in the early development and history of this region. Abram was also a pioneer here, although he went to Iowa in an early day. In that state he grew to prominence, representing his county in the state legislature and filling many other important offices. He passed the remainder of his days in Iowa, where many of his direct descendants still live.

The other brother, Moses Tompkins, was born in Schoharie, Scho-

harie county, New York, April 8, 1814, and he passed his early life there, where he also grew to manhood. He was married there to Mary Marsh, a native of Schenectady county, where she was born June 20, 1818, her parents being Charles Marsh and Mary Eddy. Her father was a native of that county, while her mother was born in Chenango county, that state. They passed their entire lives in the Empire state, although many of their children went into the west.

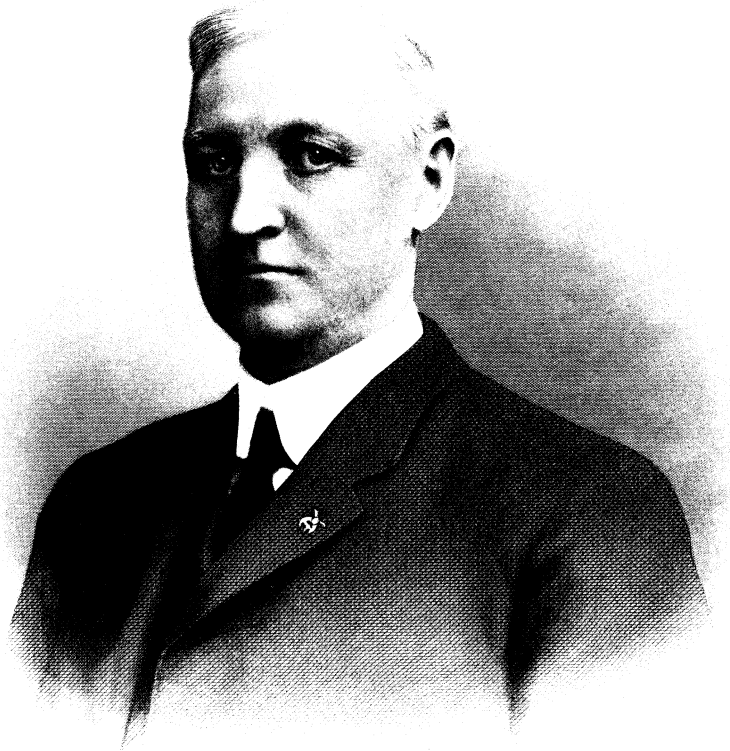
The marriage of Moses Tompkins and Mary Marsh was consummated in Schenectady county, June 2, 1838, and very soon thereafter they joined the stream of emigration to Michigan, coming here the same year. For two years they lived at Girard Center, and then they removed to section fifteen, Girard township, where Mr. Tompkins purchased forty acres of land which was almost wholly uncleared. Here the young couple made for themselves a comfortable home, here they reared a family and here it was that Mr. Tompkins died January 29, 1879, at the age of sixty-five years. While a resident of New York state he learned and followed the trade of painter, a vocation which he also followed some after coming to Michigan, although here he was also always a farmer. During his residence here he was one of the leading citizens of Girard, standing high in the regard of his fellow townsmen. He held a number of minor offices and was also, in 1847 and in 1850, treasurer of the township of Girard. Mr. and Mrs. Tompkins were for many years members and active workers in the Free Will Baptist society.

Mr. and Mrs. Moses Tompkins had four children, two sons and two daughters, all of whom grew to manhood and womanhood. One son, Julius M. Tompkins, was born January 24, 1842. At the outbreak of the Civil war he enlisted in Company C, of the Seventeenth Michigan Infantry, and was killed at Spottsylvania Courthouse, in the battle of the Wilderness, May 12, 1864. Marcia and Delphine Tompkins, the two daughters, were born in Girard and now live with their mother and brother upon the old homestead. Charles A. Tompkins, the other son, was born in Girard, October 13, 1840, and his entire life has ben passed here, with the exception of the period of his service in the Civil war. He enlisted September 16, 1861, in Company E, First Michigan Infantry, and served during the full term of his enlistment—three years. He was wounded three times and received his honorable discharge October 30, 1864. Since the war he has followed farming as a vocation and is now the owner of one hundred and twelve acres of fine farming land on sections fourteen and fifteen, Girard township. He was township treasurer in 1866, and he is considered as one of the solid and substantial citizens of the town and county. Fraternally he is affiliated with Butterworth Post No. 109, of Coldwater.

Mr. Tompkins, his aged mother and his two sisters occupy the old homestead on section fifteen, where they have a comfortable home. Mrs. Mary Tompkins, although past eighty-seven years of age, is physically as active and as alert mentally as most people of one-half her age. She still insists upon performing her share of the ordinary household duties, and she possesses an entertaining fund of reminiscence, her memory serving her



Mrs. J. W. McCausey



Very truly yours
J. W. McCarley

well, as relating to the many stirring incidents of the pioneer days. She is one of the very few pioneers of this section remaining with us to-day, and she is passing her remaining days in the company of her children, happy in the consciousness of an industrious and useful life, well spent. The old homestead on section fifteen is held jointly by members of the family, and nearly their entire lives have been passed thereon.

JOSEPH W. McCAUSEY.

Joseph W. McCausey, president of the Union City National Bank, whose intense and well directed activity has made him a prominent factor in business circles in Branch county, was born in Ira township, Cayuga county, New York, his natal day being July 16, 1854. His father, Thomas C. McCausey, was born in Washington county, New York, and was a farmer by occupation. Thinking to better his financial condition in the west he came to Branch county in 1863, settling in Union township, where he carried on farming until he put aside active business cares. He was a consistent and faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church and in his life he displayed many of the sterling characteristics of his Scotch ancestry. He married Elsie A. Hardenburgh, who was born near Port Byron, New York. His death occurred on September 27, 1904, when he was eighty-one years of age, and his widow is now living at the age of eighty-one. They were the parents of three children, two sons and a daughter.

Joseph W. McCausey, the youngest of the family, was but nine years of age when he came with his parents to Branch county. He was educated in the public schools here and in the State Normal School, from which he was graduated with the class of 1873. He afterward engaged in teaching for three terms in the district schools of Branch county and later gave his attention to farming in Union township, but thinking that he would find other pursuits more congenial in 1880 he secured a position as bookkeeper in the Union City National Bank, serving in that capacity for a year and a half. In December, 1882, he went to Quincy as cashier of the First National Bank, there remaining until 1883, when he returned to Union City to become cashier of the Union City National Bank. He thus served until the death of Ezra Bostwick in 1895 and in January, 1896, he was elected to the presidency and has since remained at the head of the institution. A safe, conservative policy was inaugurated and has always been followed. Mr. McCausey, because of his long connection with the banking business, is thoroughly familiar with it in every department and much of its success is directly attributable to his efforts. He has always been interested in the lumber business, being connected with the Union City Lumber Company as treasurer, the principal office being at Grand Rapids, Michigan. He is likewise connected with A. J. Beyor in the lumber business in the northern part of the state and is treasurer of the Northwestern Lumber Company operating in Wisconsin. He is thus associated with commercial and industrial interests of importance and is widely recognized as a man of superior business discernment, executive force and unfaltering enterprise.

In 1883 occurred the marriage of Joseph W. McCausey and Miss

Rebecca A. Sager, a daughter of Joseph Sager, of Kalamazoo county, Michigan. They now have three children: Elsie T., Thomas W. and Mary Louise. Mrs. McCausey is a native of Michigan, born in Climax, Kalamazoo county, May 29, 1855, a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Foote) Sager. Her parents are both deceased. Mrs. McCausey is a lady of more than ordinary education and culture. She is a graduate of the Kalamazoo High School in the class of 1876, and was one of the successful and meritorious educators in her native state, having been in the profession for nine years. She had taught school prior to her graduation. For five years she was one of the teachers of the Union City Public Schools, and also taught in Manistee, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. McCausey have taken due pride in the education of their children. Elsie T. is a graduate of the Union City public schools, and is now a junior in Wellesley College. Thomas J. W. is a graduate of the class of 1904 in the Union City schools, and is now a student at the well known Ferris Institute, in Big Rapids, Michigan. Mary Louise also graduated in the class of 1904 at Union City public schools and is now a freshman in Wellesley College. Mrs. McCausey is a devoted member of the First Congregational church at Union City, Michigan, and is superintendent of the Sunday School, having officiated as such for years. Mr. McCausey has been a life-long Republican and has taken an active interest in the work of the party, his labors proving an important factor in molding the policy of the party and in securing its success in Branch county. He was supervisor of his township in 1880, 1881 and 1882, and resigned at the time of his removal to Quincy. He was also school commissioner for several years and is now serving on the town council and on the school board of Union City, being an incumbent in the latter office since taking up his abode here. A prominent Mason, he has attained the Knight Templar degree and he is also a member of the Mystic Shrine and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He belongs to the First Congregational church, has served as one of its trustees for many years, is now its treasurer and is one of its most active and helpful workers. For forty years he has resided in Branch county, a period which has witnessed rapid growth and substantial development here. This result has been produced by the united efforts of many able men but probably no single individual has done more for the development of Union City than Mr. McCausey, yet in a quiet, unostentatious way. In manner he is courteous and pleasant, winning friends by his genial disposition and honorable character which command the respect of all. In every relation of life he has been faithful and true, and in his work of public and private nature, eventful and varied as it has been, no shadow of wrong or suspicion of evil darkens his honored pathway.

KIRKLAND B. ETHERIDGE.

Kirkland B. Etheridge, who is conducting a feed and exchange mill in Quincy, was born here on the 16th of January, 1846. His father, Samuel Etheridge, was one of the pioneer residents of this part of the state, arriving here in 1836, at which time he located in Coldwater. A millwright by trade, he erected the first flouring mill in Branch county. He was a man of

marked influence and public spirit and his efforts in behalf of the general good were far-reaching and beneficial. He represented his district in the state legislature in 1839 and 1840, at which time the general assembly convened at Detroit. He was also justice of the peace for a number of years, and every trust reposed in him was faithfully performed. In 1845 he removed from Coldwater to Quincy and carried on general agricultural pursuits just west of the town. In early life he was a member of the Baptist church, but subsequently became a communicant of the Episcopal church, and his fraternal affiliation was with the Masons. He married Cynthia Maria Ingham, who was born in Herkimer county, New York, in 1806, and like her husband was a representative of an old New England family. Samuel Etheridge died in 1864 at the age of seventy-six years, while his wife survived until 1886. Further mention of Mr. Etheridge is made in connection with the sketch of A. Munson Etheridge on another page of this work.

Kirkland B. Etheridge was educated in the schools of Quincy and was reared to farm life, remaining upon the home farm until eighteen years of age. The Civil war being then inaugurated, he responded to the country's need and enlisted as a member of Company E, Fourth Michigan Volunteer Infantry, under command of Captain John W. Spear. He served with that company for two years and was in the Army of the Cumberland in Rosecrans' Brigade, Third Division, Fourth Army Corps. He went to the front as a musician and was mustered out as corporal at Houston, Texas, June 13, 1866, receiving an honorable discharge at Detroit. This was one of the last regiments discharged from the service.

When the war was over Mr. Etheridge returned to Branch county, where he worked at the cooper's trade, and afterward at carpentering, but eventually he returned to the farm and has since carried on general agricultural pursuits, although at the present time he is not active in farming operations, having rented his land in Quincy township, comprising a tract of one hundred and five acres. In the fall of 1903 he bought the knitting factory and transformed it into a mill, fitting it up with machinery for the grinding of all kinds of feed, so that he now conducts a feed and exchange mill.

In 1875 Kirkland B. Etheridge was married to Miss Emma Newberry, a daughter of Peter and Hannah Newberry. Mrs. Etheridge was born in Quincy in 1849. There is one son by this marriage, Moreau Newberry Etheridge, who was born in Quincy, August 12, 1884, and is a graduate of the high school here of the class of 1904. In the fall of the same year he entered into partnership with his father, under the firm style of Etheridge & Son.

Mr. Etheridge, his wife and son are members of the Baptist church, in which they take a very active interest. He has served as trustee of the church for thirty years. His parents were charter members of the Quincy Baptist church, and the father was its first clerk and for many years served as one of its deacons. Mr. Etheridge is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and has been commander of C. O. Loomis Post No. 2, the

oldest post in the state of Michigan, because of the fact that Coldwater Post No. 1 lost its charter. He is a Republican in politics, and while in the army, although only eighteen years of age, cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln, obtaining his right of franchise from the fact that he was doing duty as a soldier. He is a member of the Quincy school board, and the cause of education finds in him a warm friend. His entire life has been passed in the village or surrounding district, and he is therefore well known and is best liked wherever best known. His attention has been largely concentrated upon his business affairs, with the result that he is now controlling a profitable enterprise, while his farm also yields to him a good financial return.

ALONZO B. ALLEN.

The farming interests of Branch county are well represented by Alonzo B. Allen, one of the enterprising and prosperous agriculturists of Coldwater township, whose property interests comprise two hundred and forty acres of rich land, the greater part of which is under a high state of cultivation. Mr. Allen has now passed the seventy-sixth milestone on life's journey, but in spirit and interests seems yet in his prime. He was born in Pittsford, Vermont, on the 11th of July, 1829, and is a representative of an old New England family. His father, John Allen, for many years a leading agriculturist of Branch county, was born in the town of Sudbury, Rutland county, Vermont, April 29, 1801, and was descended from Revolutionary ancestry, prominent among whom was Ethan Allen, the daring commander of the "Green Mountain boys" at the time of the capture of Fort Ticonderoga. William Allen, great-grandfather of our subject, was a native of Connecticut and soon after the close of the war for independence removed from that state to Vermont, becoming a resident of the town of Orwell in Rutland county. He made his home there with his eldest son William and died at an advanced age. In early life he learned the shoemaker's trade, which he followed as a source of livelihood for many years. He took an active part in the Revolution, serving under his illustrious cousin, Colonel Ethan Allen, with the Vermont troops.

Reuben Allen, grandfather of our subject, was born in the town of Union, Tolland county, Connecticut, in October, 1763, and was but sixteen years of age when he enlisted for service with the American army in the Revolutionary war. He rendered valuable aid in the struggle for independence and when the republic was an achieved fact he went from Connecticut to Vermont, becoming a resident of Pittsford, Rutland county. There he was married in 1790 to Miss Rebecca Rhodes, a native of Rhode Island, and he established his home upon a farm in the town of Sudbury, the young couple taking up their abode in a log cabin which Mr. Allen built, but which he replaced in a few years by a more commodious frame residence. His time and energies were devoted to general agricultural pursuits and he cleared and cultivated forty-four acres of his land, after which he sold this place and went to Salisbury, Addison county, Vermont, where he resided until 1832. That year witnessed his removal to the state of

New York, and his last years were spent in the home of his son, John Allen, his death occurring in 1836. His wife survived him several years and passed away at the home of her daughter. They were people of genuine worth and respectability, whose many excellent traits of character won them the confidence and esteem of those with whom they were associated. Their family numbered three daughters and three sons, namely: Clara, Sarah, Reuben, John, Saloma and Elisha.

John Allen, whose birth occurred in Sudbury, Vermont, April 29, 1801, was there reared and educated. He early became familiar with farm labor and remained on the old homestead until twenty-two years of age, when he began farming on his own account, purchasing fifty acres of land in Salisbury, Addison county. The tract was covered with a dense growth of timber and there were no improvements upon the place, so that his first work was the erection of a small frame house. He then commenced to clear and improve the farm, which he afterward sold, taking up his abode in Pittsford, Rutland county, where he remained until 1832, when he became a resident of Orleans county, New York. He made the journey between the two towns with a team as far as Whitehall and thence by way of Lake Champlain and the Erie canal to his destination. Taking up his abode in the town of Murray, he resided there until 1843, when, attracted by the advantages that Michigan offered to settlers, he decided to make his way to this state. Accordingly arrangements for the journey were made, and in company with his wife and ten children he traveled westward in a wagon drawn by horses. On reaching his destination he purchased one hundred acres of land now included within the city limits of Coldwater, a part of it being occupied by the railway station. The tract, however, was raw and unimproved at that time, and again his first work was the building of a house. When this was done he began to clear and cultivate his fields, and year after year saw a larger tract plowed and planted, while in the autumns good crops were harvested. Upon that place he resided until 1856, when he sold his property and purchased the farm upon which he continued to reside until his death. His second farm he also greatly improved through his careful management, untiring diligence and capable effort, and he erected thereon good farm buildings, including a commodious and substantial dwelling. In all of his farm work he was practical and progressive, and as the years passed, success crowned his efforts. Mr. Allen was married three times. He first wedded Miranda Kelsey, who was born in Salisbury, Vermont, in October, 1800, and died in June, 1826, leaving two children, John Edward and Clarissa Miranda. For his second wife he chose Esther Blackmer, and they became the parents of eight children, three of whom are yet living, as follows: Alonzo, Franklin and Martha. The third marriage of Mr. Allen was to Mrs. Britana (Jackson) Phetteplace, a native of Oswego county, New York.

Mr. Allen lived to the advanced age of ninety-three years, passing away on the 29th of September, 1891, while his third wife died a few years previous. He lived to see many changes in his adopted county and in the country as well, for he was a pioneer settler here. His life record covered the

period of wonderful invention in the United States, including the introduction of the telegraph and telephone, of the railroad and the wonderful uses of electricity in many departments of labor. In the early days he performed his farm work with the machinery and implements such as were common at the time, but he also lived to see much change in these as well as invention brought new and improved machinery. In politics he was always a Democrat, never faltering in his allegiance to the party. All who knew him respected him for his genuine worth and his fidelity to principle. As a pioneer he aided materially in the growth and progress of this section of the state and was among those who assisted in laying broad and deep the foundation for the present development of Branch county.

Alonzo B. Allen, whose name introduces this review, was only three years old when his parents removed from Vermont to New York, and there he began his education in the public schools, which he attended through the winter months, while in the summer seasons he worked upon the home farm. His time was thus occupied until he attained the age of fourteen years, when the family removed to Michigan, their home being established in Branch county. Mr. Allen continued his education as a public school student in Coldwater and afterward in Hillsdale College at Hillsdale, Michigan, thus acquiring a good education, which enabled him at the age of twenty-two years to become a teacher. He followed the profession for several terms, spending the winter months in the school room, while in the summer seasons he worked in the fields. Throughout his entire life he has been identified with agricultural pursuits, and he made his first purchase of land in 1852, becoming owner of a tract lying on sections 35 and 26, Coldwater township, and still included within his present farm. Only fifteen acres of the original tract had been improved and upon this a small log cabin and a log barn had been built. At the time of his marriage Mr. Allen took up his abode on this place, building a wagon house, in which he lived until he could erect a frame dwelling.

It was on the 13th of December, 1860, that Mr. Allen was united in marriage to Miss Hannah Mary Barnes, who was born on the 28th of October, 1836, in Saratoga Springs, New York, a daughter of Smith Barnes, also a native of the Empire state. Being left an orphan when a young lad, her father went to reside with an uncle in Saratoga county, New York, where he made his home until 1851, when he came to Branch county, Michigan, settling in Coldwater township. Here he purchased eighty acres of land on section twenty-seven and resided there until called to his final rest. He had married Miss Deborah Loantha Morehouse, a native of New York and a daughter of Aaron and Delora (Reynolds) Morehouse. Mr. and Mrs. Allen have become the parents of four children, but only two are now living: Smith Allen, born September 28, 1861, married Katie Brown and they reside near his father. Nellie Allen, born August 26, 1872, was married October 11, 1893, to Thaddeus R. Follett, and she and her son, Allen T. Follett, born April 6, 1895, reside on the old homestead with her father, for whom she acts as housekeeper, for Mrs. Allen, the wife and mother, passed away Sep-

tember 18, 1904. Esther M., who was born March 8, 1864, died September 27, 1868, and Mary Allen, who was born September 27, 1868, died on the 3rd of August, 1887.

In his political views Mr. Allen was an earnest Democrat from the time he cast his first presidential vote for Stephen A. Douglas until 1876, when his political opinions underwent a change and he became an advocate of the Greenback party. He still keeps in touch with the questions and issues of the day and holds decided opinions upon the matters which affect the welfare of the country. He has at various times been an officer in his school district and has represented his town three terms on the board of supervisors. All matters that tend to advance the interests of the county and promote its progress and upbuilding receive his endorsement and many times his active co-operation. He is today one of the honored pioneer settlers of the county, having for more than six decades resided within its borders, during which time the greater part of its growth and improvement has been accomplished until the county today bears little resemblance to the unimproved district into which the Allen family made their way so long ago. Mr. Allen relates many interesting incidents of early pioneer times, his mind being stored with reminiscences of the early days, yet no man rejoices more largely in what has been accomplished by the county as it has taken on all the evidences of an advanced civilization. In farm work he has always been active, energetic and successful and is today the owner of valuable property interests.

CHRISTOPHER SCHAFFMASTER.

Christopher Schaffmaster, whose life of industry and enterprise has been crowned with success and who is now the owner of a good farm in Bronson township, was born in Germany in 1828, his parents being John Henry and Margaret Christina (Rosenbroke) Schaffmaster. The father was a brick manufacturer. When Christopher Schaffmaster removed to Michigan in 1853 his father came to America with his family and lived with his two sons, Christopher and Fritz, for two years, but about 1855 removed to Matteson township, where he rented forty acres of land that he afterward purchased. Subsequently he added another forty-acre tract. He had a family of eight children, namely: Anna; Christopher; Fritz; Henry; Margaret, who died at the age of two years; Barney, who died in 1864; Margaret, who was the second of that name; and George. The father continued to reside upon his farm until a few years prior to his death, which occurred in January, 1885, when he was eighty-two years of age, his birth having occurred on the 1st of January, 1803. His wife survived him for a number of years, passing away in 1899.

Christopher Schaffmaster acquired a good education, attending school until fifteen years of age, when he went to work in his father's brickyard and mastered the trade, becoming familiar with it both in principle and detail. In 1847, at the age of nineteen years, he came to America, hoping that he might find better business opportunities in the new world where competition was greater, but where advancement was also more quickly secured and

where labor gained its just reward, unhampered by caste or class. Landing on the Atlantic coast he made his way to western New York, settling in Orleans county, where lived his uncle, who was a contractor in stone and was also a manufacturer of lime. Mr. Schaffmaster of this review was employed there from October, 1847, until January, 1848, but in the meantime he determined to become a farmer and resolved to work away from German associations so that he might learn the American language, knowing that if he remained among German friends he would continue to use the speech of the fatherland. He therefore entered the employ of an American farmer, with whom he worked for three years. Later he spent two more years in the service of other farmers of that locality, at the end of which time he and his brother Fritz, who also came to America, started for Branch county, Michigan. This was in 1853. Mr. Schaffmaster saved seven hundred dollars and his brother Fritz saved five hundred dollars, which they invested in ninety-five acres of land on section four, Bronson township. They cleared this land, cultivating it together for six years and building thereon a residence at a cost of one thousand dollars. Both were energetic, industrious men, and their labor soon wrought a marked change in the farm which they owned.

In 1860 Mr. Schaffmaster was married, and they began their domestic life upon this farm. The following year Mr. Schaffmaster purchased his brother's interest, and with a new impetus for energetic and unremitting labor he so directed his efforts that in 1864 he was enabled to extend the boundaries of his farm by additional purchase, adding a tract of sixty-four acres. He continued to make his home upon his farm until 1899, when he removed to Bronson. In all of his farming operations he was practical, persevering and progressive and he developed a splendid property. He had purchased forty acres of land on section three, Bronson township, and about 1887 had purchased fifty-three and a half acres adjoining the town of Bronson, known as the Milo Clark farm. About 1898 he bought forty acres on section eleven of the same township, known as the Frances Ruggles farm, thus becoming the owner of two hundred and ninety-three and a half acres, besides their handsome town property in Bronson. He yet retains possession of all of this and is therefore one of the extensive land owners of his locality. He has followed general farming with excellent success and he feeds all of his grain to his stock. Mr. Schaffmaster gives his personal supervision to his property, which he works on the shares, though he is now well advanced in years and leaves the active work of the farm to others.

On November 14, 1860, Christopher Schaffmaster was united in marriage to Miss Mahala La Due, who was born in Fishkill-on-the-Hudson, and was but a little child when her parents removed to Monroe county, New York, near Rochester. She was born May 21, 1840 and she is the third in a family of five children, two sons and three daughters, born to Cornelius and Margaret M. (Ostrander) La Due. All are living, namely: Mary L., wife of Charles Caveney, a resident of Bronson, Michigan, and an agriculturist by occupation, and both are members of the Methodist Episcopal church; Henry A., a resident of Byron, New York, and was married three times, the

present wife having been Mrs. Buchanan; Mrs. Schaffmaster is next in order of birth; Arcelia, wife of John Auten, a farmer of Matteson township; Willie Jasper, a resident of Monroe county, New York, also follows agricultural pursuits and is married. Father La Due was born in New York and was of French lineage. Mother La Due was also a native of New York, born in the same locality as her husband, and in an early day removed to western New York. The following memorial appeared at the death of Mr. La Due: "Cornelius S. La Due, of the town of Sweden, Monroe county, New York, exchanged worlds June 18, 1884, in the seventy-fourth year of his age. His father was a Methodist local preacher. He was converted in early life and continued to live a consistent Christian until the summons came, 'come up higher.' He esteemed very highly the public means of grace, remarking, as life was drawing to a close, that he should go to the house of God as long as he was able to go anywhere, hence he has often been at church during the past year, while so feeble as hardly to be able to speak for want of breath; expressing in class by joyful countenance and a few words his pleasure to testify to the goodness of God. When the church of his early choice departed in practice from the teachings of the early Methodist fathers he saw fit to come out and identify himself with those who still believe the world will never find a better creed to lead a man to the skies, if believed, experienced and practiced, than that taught by John Wesley. The companion of his youth survives him. May the blessing of God rest upon her and upon the five children, all grown to mature years, and may they follow in their father's ways as he followed Christ." Mrs. Schaffmaster has always been an able helpmeet and associate to her husband in the years past and gone, and she has always stood by his side in counsel and advice. She raised her children to lives of usefulness, and they today fill honored positions in the social circle of their native county. Mr. and Mrs. Schaffmaster began their lives with small capital, but by energy and filial living they have accumulated a goodly competency. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Schaffmaster have been born three children, but Cornelius La Due died at the age of twenty months. John, who is living on the home farm, married Miss Jennie Fowler, and has three children: George F.; Homer C., and Esther. Dora is the wife of George Carter, a resident farmer of Bethel township.

Mr. and Mrs. Schaffmaster are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Bronson, in which she is steward and he is trustee, and both have been teachers. As soon as possible after coming to America he took out his naturalization papers, and when the right of franchise was conferred upon him he became a staunch Republican, and has never faltered in his allegiance to the party. He was loyal to his adopted country in her time of need, and took a man to Kalamazoo and paid eight hundred and ten dollars for a substitute, although not drafted. He has been a man of principle, and with the aid of his good wife has accomplished great success. He has been a member of the school board for several years and was highway commissioner for one year. Whatever the duty that has devolved upon him, it has been faithfully performed, and he has always stood for progressiveness in citizenship as well as in private life. In his farming operations he has done

much to advance a high standard among agriculturists. He resolved to be a leader rather than a follower, and he has been the first to introduce much improved farm machinery in this part of the county. He had the first binder and had a windmill upon his place twelve years before any other was found in the locality. He also had in his home the first organ in the township. Whatever has tended to promote his work and to facilitate farming interests has received his endorsement and attention, and he has been quick to adopt any new methods which promise of practical value. Having now passed the seventy-fifth milestone on life's journey he is largely enjoying rest from further labor and is surrounded by all of the comforts and many luxuries which go to make life worth the living and which have been secured through his own well directed efforts. He wisely determined in early manhood to come to the "land of the free," and here, where labor finds its just reward, he has worked persistently and energetically until he is today one of the prosperous farmers of Bronson township.

SIMON B. KITCHEL.

Simon B. Kitchel was born at Auburn, Cayuga county, New York, in the year 1839, and died at Coldwater, Michigan, July 31, 1905. About the year 1870 he was married to Theresa M. Jordan, and to them was born one son, Hiram Kitchel, who survived his father, an only child. In the year 1892 his wife, Mrs. Theresa M. Kitchel, died, and in the following year he married Miss Carrie Krebs, who survived him as his widow. Much deserved credit was always accorded these faithful companions by Mr. Kitchel for the great assistance they rendered in the successes that came to him.

Simon B. Kitchel, considered from his boyhood to the day of his death, was a typical American citizen of the Nineteenth Century. As a boy his pathway was beset with all the hardships and privations of poverty. His parents were poor. He had no influential friends except such as he must attract by his own efforts and worth. Through work and self denial he supported himself and not only obtained a good primary education but attended for a few terms a neighboring academy.

August 21, 1862, he enlisted as a private in the Eighth Independent Company of New York State Sharp Shooters, and for his great gallantry and coolness while with this organization was specially mentioned and complimented in the history of the regiment. When the Forty-third Regiment of United States Sharp Shooters (colored troops) was organized, the prejudice of the Confederate army was so great against the use of colored troops by the North that it was not easy to obtain efficient officers who cared to face the dangers of capture. Young Kitchel, however, was ready to enlist and by reason of his proficiency and capacity he was promoted from time to time, until on the 10th day of April, 1864, he was made first lieutenant of Company I in the above regiment. He was in numerous engagements, twenty-five or more, during the service, including the capture of Richmond April 3, 1865.

After the close of the war Lieutenant Kitchel found his way first to



S. B. Kitchel

Ohio, where he taught school for a year or two, and then came on to Coldwater, settling in this city in the year 1868. He had overcome all obstacles in the boyhood pathway, he had served well and honorably his country in war, and now without capital or influence he found himself in a new home where he must carve his own future and make his own fortune. By hard struggles and through many privations he completed his law studies and began the practice of his chosen work. At odd spells while in the army and after its close he had taken up and pursued the study of stenography, until he had become a proficient artist in that branch, and which served him to great advantage in the practice of his profession. He was also an artist in fine penmanship. So popular had Mr. Kitchel become as a young lawyer and citizen that in 1876 he was nominated and elected prosecuting attorney of the county and was re-elected to the same office in 1878. He was afterward honored by his neighbors and by the city in being made a member of the board of education, mayor of his city, etc.

He was always an ardent member of the Republican party and believed in an honest square deal in caucus or election. He hated rings and bosses and always fought trickery. His position was always known and he never wore two faces. The last political effort of his life was for a law providing for the reform of the primary election system. He abhorred the abuses attendant upon the modern caucus and convention and earnestly advocated radical changes in the law. Both personally and through his paper he became a prominent state factor in this fight.

His mind and genius were never idle, and his plans seldom miscarried. He was not an impractical dreamer. He studied men and their wants. It was through his keen observation and genius that he compounded the liniment that afterward became world famous. Through his pluck and perseverance, without capital and single handed, he organized the manufacture, sale and business; he pushed the enterprise, until at his death Kitchel's Liniment had become a familiar name the country over.

He loved good horses and for twenty years or more owned the best he could buy. At his death he had twenty-five or more of the finest bred colts in the whole country. He often drove his own horses in speed contests, but never bet or invested a dollar in pools or wagers. In his habits he was strictly temperate, and never touched intoxicating liquor as a beverage or used tobacco in any form.

He was exceedingly fond of shooting and during the season for bird hunting would spend many days with his dogs tramping through the woods, and he generally returned with well filled bags. For some years prior to his death he went South, accompanied by his wife, for a few months each winter, taking his guns and dogs for recreation.

At different times he owned some fine launches, first upon the lakes about Coldwater and afterward some very elaborate and beautiful ones. In one of them he spent several weeks with his wife in a cruise down the inland route along the Atlantic coast and up some of the rivers emptying into the Atlantic. Later he had an elaborate and finely appointed launch constructed for him in Providence, Rhode Island, and with his wife and son,

Horace, cruised the Long Island Sound, up the Hudson, through the Erie Canal, across Lake Erie to Detroit. These trips were to him the height of enjoyment.

When the automobile came Mr. Kitchel watched and studied its advent and improvements, and during the last two years of his life enjoyed greatly the best machines he could buy, bringing to Coldwater the first touring cars owned in the city.

Perhaps no undertaking, however, redounded to his home credit with greater appreciation than the establishment and maintenance of the Coldwater Daily and Semi-weekly Reporter. The success of this enterprise was due solely and alone to his daring and push. No expense was denied or refused to make the paper the best. The circulation so rapidly increased that it became equal to if not greater than that of any paper in the state published in towns of no greater size. Two linotype machines, with corresponding presses and equipment, were added, until it was at the time of his death one of the best appointed offices in the state.

Socially he loved his home and his friends and cared little for the society of strangers. It mattered little to him whether his friends were rich or poor, their real worth was all that appealed to him.

While he always had the best of everything himself, he was not given to display, nor to any extravagance for mere show. The vein of humor in him was seemingly inexhaustible and original. His memory seldom lost anything and whether hours, days or years elapsed he could recall with detailed accuracy conversations and incidents with such precision that he afforded his friends and companions, wherever he was, both pleasure and entertainment.

No man ever questioned his integrity, word or honesty. In charities he was liberal and generous and his hand was always extended to a worthy cause. His giving was not published by heralds, but was exercised with observation. He was true to a friend. He was cordial, generous and open when he was with him and he would guard and defend his good name when he was absent. What better test of friendship? He died having left a deep impress for good. His struggles in youth for support and education are worthy of emulation. The services he rendered to his country in war call for the gratitude of every citizen. While his honesty and character, his clean and temperate life, his genius and energy, the useful enterprises he organized and left, unite with common voice in deserved praise of the life and accomplishments of Simon B. Kitchel.

MILO D. CAMPBELL.

JAMES R. DICKEY.

James R. Dickey may without invidious distinction be classed as a foremost citizen of Coldwater, being influential in public affairs, in which his ability and devotion to the general good well qualify him for leadership. As county treasurer and county clerk he has made a most creditable record, and at the present time he is representing the First ward of the city on the board of supervisors.

Mr. Dickey was born in Niagara county, New York, February 14, 1847, his parents being James and May T. (Appleby) Dickey. The father was a native of Washington county, New York, and was a blacksmith by occupation. He came to Branch county, Michigan, in March, 1852, settling in Coldwater, where he worked for about six months, when he began farming in Quincy township, there carrying on general agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred in the '70s. His political views accorded with Republican principles, and although he was never an aspirant for office, he was always loyal to the party to which he gave his support. His wife was a native of Allegheny county, New York, and died when about sixty years of age. They were the parents of four children, of whom one died in childhood.

James R. Dickey, the third child and third son of the family, was about five years old when brought by his parents to Branch county. He was educated in the district schools and in Coldwater, where he attended the high school and in the summer months he followed farming, looking after the interests of his father's place. He early learned the value of industry and integrity as forceful factors in a business career, and these have ever characterized his life. As a companion and helpmate for life's journey he chose Miss Emily P. Smith, to whom he was married July 3, 1873. She was a daughter of Daniel Smith. Mr. and Mrs. Dickey began their domestic life upon the farm and he continued its cultivation until 1876, when called to public office by popular ballot. He removed to Coldwater to enter upon the duties of county treasurer, to which position he had been elected on the Republican ticket, receiving the largest majority given any man in the county. He was re-elected in 1878, and in 1881 he was chosen county clerk, which position he filled for twelve consecutive years, a longer period than any other incumbent in that office during the history of Branch county. In 1892 he was defeated for nomination in one of the most hotly contested political fights ever known in the history of the county. In 1893 he filled the position of city clerk and the following year he entered upon the work of making the annotations attached to the law books of the different states. His patent is now handled all over the country, and in the interest of the business Mr. Dickey himself traveled through many states of the Union. His work has received the commendation of many of the most prominent lawyers of the country and also of the senate of Wisconsin, who in session advocated the use of his patent. In 1904 he was elected supervisor from the First ward and is now occupying that position.

Mr. and Mrs. Dickey have one daughter, Dora Duella. Fraternally he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. His residence in the county covers more than a half century and he is prominent locally, having the warm friendship and high regard of the majority of the citizens of this part of the state. Over the record of his official career there falls no shadow of wrong or suspicion of evil, and he has rendered valuable service to the county in the faithful discharge of the duties that have devolved upon him.

ISAAC TOWER.

Isaac Tower is one of the venerable residents of Union City, having passed the eighty-third milestone on life's journey. He is honored by all because his life has been upright and has also been crowned with successful accomplishment in the business world. In more intimate commercial circles he has gained warm friendships and today he is esteemed by young and old, rich and poor throughout Branch county. His birth occurred in Windsor county, Vermont, June 13, 1822. His father, Abram Tower, is supposed to have been a native of the Green Mountain state and was born March 9, 1781, while his death occurred January 15, 1857. He married Bethia Field, also a native of Vermont, born December 4, 1786. She passed away September 11, 1839.

Isaac Tower, the eighth in order of birth in their family of ten children, was reared in the county of his nativity and with the exception of four years spent in New Hampshire remained a resident of Vermont until twenty-eight years of age. He attended the common schools there and after arriving at years of maturity he sought a companion and helpmate for life's journey, being married in Charleston, New Hampshire, April 2, 1849, to Miss Mary Corbin, who was there born October 16, 1829, her parents being Ezbond and Lucretia (Howe) Corbin. In their family were ten children, all of whom became residents of Branch county, but only five are now living. Mrs. Tower has a twin sister, Martha, who is the widow of Hiram Crissy, and Mrs. D. C. Mosley is also their sister. Their brother, Captain Henry Corbin, resides in Union City and they have another brother in Sherwood. Mr. Tower also has a sister living, Mrs. Henry L. Bisbee, whose home is in Athens, Calhoun county, Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Tower removed from the east to Branch county in the year of their marriage, locating in Union City, where he established a boot and shoe store, carrying on business with gratifying success until 1865. He then sold out and took up his abode on a farm in Burlington, Calhoun county, where he lived for four years, after which he returned to Union City, establishing his home in the house which has since sheltered him. The first township election was held in this house. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Tower were born two sons: Willis, who was born November 15, 1856, and is now engaged in the boot and shoe business in Union City, and Newton E., who was born November 26, 1857, and is now postmaster of this place. He is married and has two children: Harold N. E. and Marjorie E.

Mr. and Mrs. Tower celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1899, having for a half century traveled life's journey together, sharing with each other its joys and sorrows, its adversity and prosperity, their mutual love and confidence increasing as the years have gone by. They have now been man and wife for fifty-six years, and all of their married life has been spent in Branch county. Since the organization of the Republican party Mr. Tower has been one of its stalwart advocates and has held a number of local offices in the town, never faltering in the performance of any duty that has devolved upon him in this connection. He is one of the honored pioneer set-

tlers here and his labors have contributed in substantial measure to the upbuilding and progress of this section of the state. His success in business was the result of honest, persistent effort in the line of honorable and manly dealing. His aim has always been to attain to the best and he has carried forward to successful completion whatever he has undertaken. His life has marked a steady growth and now he is in possession of an ample competence, and, more than all, has that contentment which comes from a consciousness of having lived for a worthy purpose.

WILLIS H. TOWER.

Willis H. Tower, a representative of commercial interests in Union City, where he has engaged in business as a dealer in boots and shoes, was here born November 15, 1856, being the elder son of Isaac and Mary Tower, who are yet residents of Union City. He began his education in the common schools, passed through successive grades until he had become a high school student and later entered Olivet College at Olivet, Michigan. He began his business career as a salesman in the shoe store of Samuel Corbin, with whom he remained for two or three years, and on the expiration of that period he and his brother, Newton E., established a shoe store in this city under the firm name of Tower Brothers. They were thus associated for twenty-five years. At the end of that time Willis Tower purchased his brother's interest and has since conducted business independently. From the beginning he has enjoyed a large patronage, and his enterprising methods, the large line of goods which he carries and his honorable methods constitute the basis of his prosperity.

In 1880 Mr. Tower was united in marriage to Miss Ida E. Canniff, a daughter of Enos and Lucy Canniff. She was born in Hudson, Michigan and pursued her education in the schools there. By this marriage there is one child, Dr. Lee H. Tower, who is now engaged in the practice of medicine in Centerville and is a graduate of the University of Michigan of the class of 1904.

In connection with his other business interests Willis Tower is a director in the Union City National Bank. While his mercantile affairs make heavy claims upon his time and attention, he has yet found opportunity to perform capable service in behalf of his fellow townsmen, and his aid is always counted upon to further any movement for the public good. In politics he has been a life-long Republican and has served as a member of the school board. In the Masonic fraternity he is connected with the lodge and the Order of the Eastern Star, and his wife is a member of the Congregational church. He has lived his life of fifty years in this county and is well known. A man of wide experiences and broad mind, of marked enterprise and good discernment, he has many friends throughout this part of the state and is classed with the representative merchants and valued citizens of Union City.

WARD C. GRUNER.

In the history of the agricultural development of Branch county mention should be made of Ward C. Gruner, who resides on section two, Batavia township, and he has spent his entire life in Branch county, giving his attention to agricultural pursuits since he attained his majority. He was born in Coldwater township on the 1st of January, 1866. His father, Weinzel Gruner, was a native of Wittenberg, Germany, and on crossing the Atlantic to America spent five years in the state of New York, after which he came to Michigan, settling in Coldwater township at an early period in its development. There he secured a tract of land and became one of the prosperous farmers of the county, devoting his time and energies to general agricultural pursuits up to the time of his demise, which occurred when he was fifty-five years of age. He married Miss Emily Randall, who is represented elsewhere in this work.

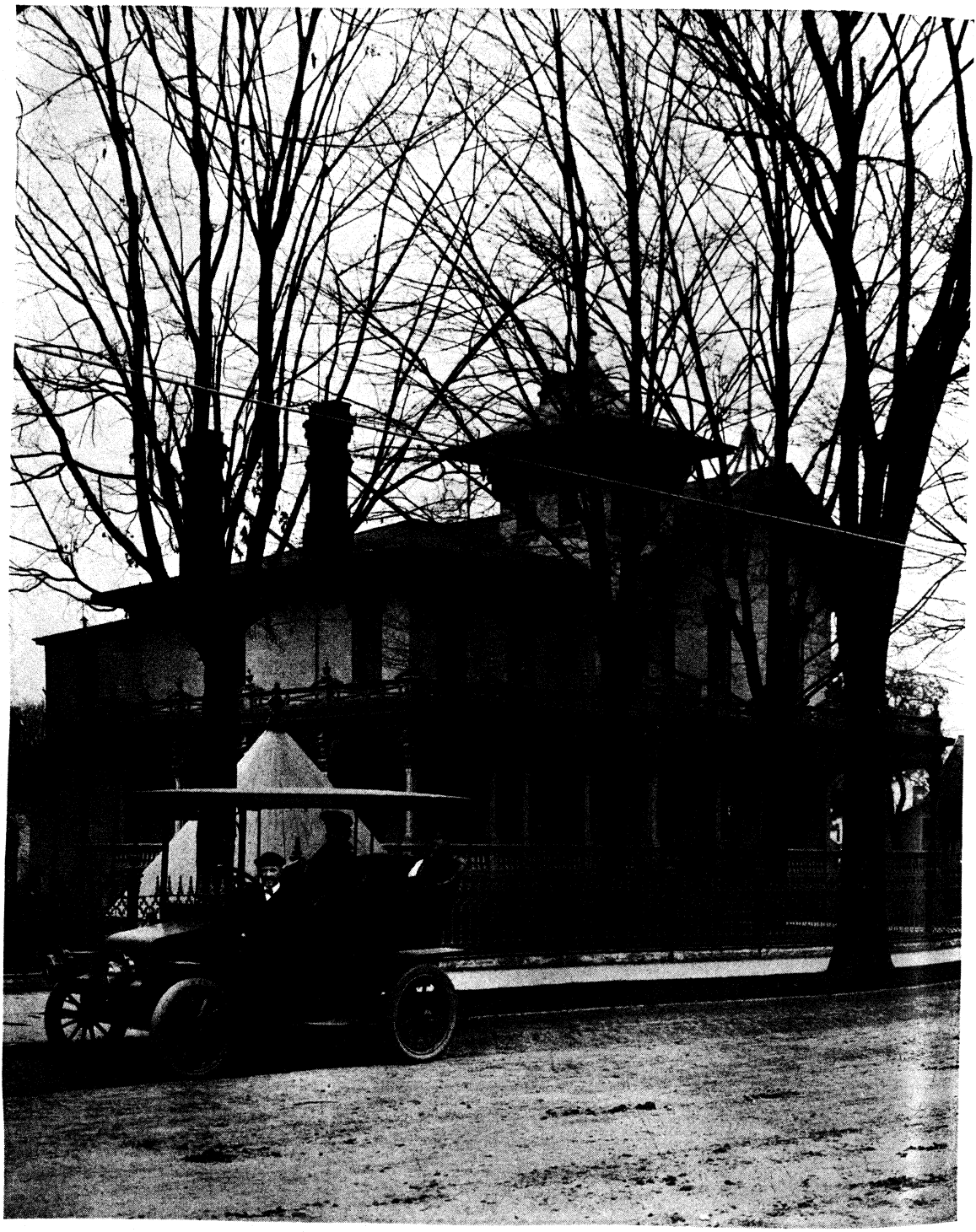
Ward C. Gruner is the fourth of their children and was reared in Coldwater township upon the old home farm. At the usual age he entered the district schools, and acquired a fair English education. Through the period of his youth he assisted in the labors of the old homestead and when twenty-one years of age started out in life on his own account. In 1889 he purchased the farm whereon he now resides, took up his abode there and has made excellent improvements since, including the erection of substantial barns and a good residence. These are surrounded by well tilled fields, and he annually gathers golden harvests for the reward which he bestows upon his land.

On the 20th of November, 1889, Mr. Gruner was married to Miss Delia Graf, a daughter of Willard and Martha Graf, and unto them have been born three children, Carl W., Ruth M. and Mina Laura, all of whom are attending school. Mr. Gruner has eighty acres of land, devoted to general farming and stock raising. He has been a life-long resident of Michigan and his life exemplifies the progressive spirit which has been the dominant factor in the substantial and rapid development of this part of the country. In politics he is an earnest Republican, has served as highway commissioner and is now a member of the school board. He has taken an active interest in public affairs and is a member of the Grange, No. 95.

HON. MILO DEWITT CAMPBELL.

Hon. Milo Dewitt Campbell, prominent in Republican circles in Michigan and wielding a wide influence in public thought and action, was born on his father's farm in Quincy township, Branch county, October 25, 1851, his parents being Rollin Madison and Susan Ann Campbell. In the paternal line he comes of Scotch lineage, while the maternal ancestry is traced back to England. His parents were born in western New York, and in 1848 came to Michigan, settling in Branch county, where the father followed the occupation of farming.

Milo Dewitt Campbell was reared in the usual manner of farm lads and attended the country schools until fourteen years of age, after which he be-



Residence of Milo D. Campbell



Mildred Campbell

came a student in the city schools of Coldwater, and there he was graduated on the completion of a high school course with the class of 1871. He afterward matriculated in the State Normal School at Ypsilanti, and the year of his graduation there was 1875. His father being a farmer of limited financial resources was not able to aid his son in securing an education, but allowed him the privilege of working as a farm hand in the summer months, and with the wages thus earned Mr. Campbell met the expense of his high school and normal courses. When seventeen years of age he began teaching, and alternately devoted his attention to attending school and to the work of instruction in the schoolroom until he had completed his own education. Predilection led him to the study of law, and in 1877 he was admitted to the bar. For ten years thereafter he practiced in the town of Quincy, Michigan, and soon rose to prominence in his profession, gaining a lucrative practice. In 1886 he removed to Coldwater, where he has since resided, and here he entered into a partnership with Clayton C. Johnson, who had been a law student in his office. This relation has continued uninterruptedly and the firm enjoys a large patronage. The favorable opinion which the world passed upon Mr. Campbell at the outset of his career has in no degree been set aside or modified, but on the contrary has been strengthened as the years have passed and he has demonstrated his ability to handle intricate legal problems. In addition to his law practice he has business interests in the Coldwater National Bank and the Southern Michigan National Bank.

Mr. Campbell is equally prominent in political circles and perhaps is even more widely known as a Republican leader than as a lawyer. He has held several positions of honor and trust, the first office to which he was called having been that of county school commissioner. He was elected to that office when only twenty-one years of age, and subsequently he was chosen by popular vote to the office of circuit court commissioner of Branch county. In 1885 he was elected to represent his district in the state legislature and in January, 1887, when Governor Luce was inaugurated as chief executive of the commonwealth, Mr. Campbell became his private secretary and was the incumbent in that office for four years. In 1891 he was appointed by Governor Winans as the Republican member of the state board of inspectors, having charge of all the penal and reformatory institutions of the state, together with the pardon board. He was made president of this board and served for two years, or until the law creating this board was changed. He was appointed by Governor John T. Rich a member of the railroad and street crossing board of inspectors in 1893, and served for one term and in 1897 he received appointment as commissioner of insurance by Governor Pingree, holding that office for two years, when at the solicitation of the governor he was appointed a member of the board of state tax commissioners. He then became its president and served as such until the close of Governor Pingree's term of office. He has been elected three times mayor of the city of Coldwater, in 1902, 1903 and 1904, and as a delegate has attended many district, state and national conventions of the Republican party as well as international and national conferences of the board of correction and charities. He was a delegate to the national conference at

New York to prepare extradition agreements between the states. He has made a close study of questions that have arisen in connection with the discharge of the many duties that have devolved upon him in an official capacity and has labored for the benefit of the state along practical lines for improvement in connection with the work for the benefit of the classes who do not hold themselves amenable to the law and must therefore be placed under restriction.

Fraternally Mr. Campbell is a member of the Patrons of Husbandry and is also a Knight Templar and an Elk. He holds membership with the Presbyterian church of Coldwater and his career has been marked by conduct consistent with his professions. He is a man of broad humanitarian principles and has never faltered in the performance of any duty in connection with his public service.

Mr. Campbell was married in Quincy, Michigan, October 18, 1876, to Miss Marion Florence Sears. They have an adopted daughter, Jessie May, who became a member of their household when three years of age. The family enjoy pleasing, social relations and are numbered among the prominent representatives of the social life of Coldwater. They own and occupy a large and attractive modern residence on East Chicago street.

HENRY A. GRAVES.

Henry A. Graves, formerly identified with the mercantile interests as a grocer and now agent for the United States Express Company at Quincy, was born at Clear Lake, Steuben county, Indiana, November 25, 1856. His father, Orval Graves, was born in Granville, Licking county, Ohio, September 23, 1817. The grandfather and great-grandfather both bore the name of Enoch Graves, and the former, born in Granville, Massachusetts, in 1795, went to Ohio with his father, Enoch Graves, Sr., who traveled westward with a colony and founded the town of Granville, giving to it the name of their old home in New England. The Graves family is of Anglo-Saxon lineage, and the name was originally DeGreaves. The first representative of the family in America arrived in 1632, settling in Massachusetts, and later generations went to Connecticut.

Orval Graves removed from Ohio to Steuben county, Indiana, in 1854. He was a farmer by occupation and he purchased four eighty acres of land of the original purchaser, who had obtained it from the government, and Mr. Graves of this review has in his possession the original patent deeds for each eighty. On the 7th of April, 1865, Orval Graves became a resident of Quincy and remained in the village for four years, after which he took up his abode on a farm two miles west of Quincy, which he had previously purchased and on which he remained until his death on the 9th of February, 1889. He was a man of strong convictions, honorable and upright in his daily walk in life, and was a consistent member of the Presbyterian church, in which he long held office. He gave his political support to the Republican party, but had no aspirations for preferment in that direction. He stood high in the regard of friends and neighbors, all who knew him entertaining

for him warm regard. He married Elvira Saxton, who was born in Malone, Franklin county, New York, October 8, 1823, and is now living in Quincy. She was a daughter of Ebenezer and Lois (Brigham) Saxton, in whose family were eight children, while her husband was one of a family of four children, of whom one is now living, Alva Graves, who is a music teacher residing at Battle Creek, Michigan. Mrs. Graves was of English lineage. Unto this marriage there were born five children: Elmer E., Lillie, Ella and Burton O., all now deceased.

Henry A. Graves, who was the fourth in order of birth, began his education in the schools of Quincy and continued his studies in Valparaiso, Indiana. He taught for five years in the district schools of Quincy township, and was superintendent of schools in the state reformatory of Connecticut at Meriden for a time. In the spring of 1883 he embarked in the grocery business in Quincy, successfully conducting a store until 1895. He also had the agency of the United States Express Company. In the fall of 1895 he sold the business and in the spring of 1896 went to Fostoria, Ohio, where he took charge of the United States express office. After remaining at that place for two years he returned to Quincy and again engaged in the grocery and express business. He had a well appointed store, which he conducted until January, 1905, when he sold out to his son-in-law, George P. Comstock, and John R. Norcutt, but retained the agency of the express company, and is now conducting the office at this point. Mr. Norcutt is now out of business in Quincy, and Mr. Graves has charge of the United States Express Company, and the firm is now Comstock and Company, Mr. Graves being the company.

On the 10th of August, 1881, Mr. Graves was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Boon, a daughter of Rodney and Hannah (Carr) Boon of Roseville, Illinois. She died June 16, 1892, in the thirty-fourth year of her age, leaving a daughter, Nellie E., who is now the wife of George P. Comstock. On the 27th of September, 1893, Mr. Graves was married to Miss Lulu D. Smith, a daughter of J. C. and Viola Smith of Cleveland, Tennessee. Mrs. Graves was born in Quincy, Michigan, July 10, 1870, and there were two children by this marriage: Howard A., born March 14, 1895; and Marguerite Viola, who was born November 14, 1897, and died January 11, 1900.

Mr. and Mrs. Graves are members of the Presbyterian church, in which he is serving as one of the trustees, and for a number of years he was superintendent of the Sunday school. In the work of the church he has taken a deep and helpful interest. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity, Mt. Vernon Lodge No. 166, in which he has taken the York Rite degrees; Quincy Chapter No. 115, Royal Arch Masons; Mt. Moriah Council No. 6, at Coldwater, and Jacob's Commandery No. 10, Coldwater; and Saladin Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., Grand Rapids, and belongs also to the Knights of Pythias fraternity, Quincy Lodge No. 201; the Woodmen Camp No. 1066, and the Eastern Star No. 12, and has filled all of the chairs in subordinate lodges. In politics he is a Republican and has been a member of the council, also village treasurer and township treasurer and township superintendent of schools. He is now serving as township chairman of the Republican com-

mittee, and has received his commission as postmaster of Quincy. He is recognized as one of the local Republican leaders, and has also been very active and helpful in church work. He is popular with many friends and esteemed by all who know him, and is justly regarded as one of the representative citizens of Quincy.

CHARLES W. BENNETT.

Charles W. Bennett, at one time prominently connected with business interests in Coldwater and now living retired, was born in the town of Rollin, Lenawee county, Michigan, August 14, 1838, his parents being Hiram Harrison and Caroline A. (Holmes) Bennett. The father and mother were both natives of the state of New York, the former born near Schenectady and the latter near Batavia. They were married in Michigan and settled in Lenawee county, there living for about eight years, after which they removed to the township of Butler, Branch county, where they arrived in June, 1845. Subsequently they took up their abode in Quincy, where the mother died in 1890 at the age of seventy-six years, while the father passed away in Coldwater in 1897, at the age of eighty-three years. The remains of both were interred in the cemetery at Quincy. Through much of his life the father followed farming and he also worked at carpentering and at the builder's trade, possessing much natural mechanical ability. His political support was given to the Whig party in his early life and afterward he became a staunch Republican. He was one of the most prominent members of the Baptist church of his locality and was one of three men who established the first church of that denomination in Butler township. He led an active and consistent Christian life and the honorable principles which permeated his career made him a man respected and esteemed by all who knew him. His wife was also a member of the Baptist church and a most estimable lady. This worthy couple had but two children, Charles W. and Minerva Adaline, the latter the wife of Joel Rowley of Coldwater.

Charles W. Bennett was reared upon his father's farm and obtained his education in a little log schoolhouse such as was common in pioneer districts. When twenty-one years of age he began teaching school, but followed that profession for only two years, when, after the outbreak of the Civil war, he responded to the country's need, enlisting on the 15th of August, 1861, as a private of Company G, Ninth Michigan Infantry. He was made a sergeant before the company left the state and afterward received several promotions, being commissioned captain on the 26th of October, 1863, of Company F, Thirteenth United States Colored Infantry, while on the 2nd of December, 1865, he was brevetted major "for faithful and meritorious service during the war." He participated in a number of the most sanguinary engagements, including the battles of Murfreesboro, Stone River, Chickamauga, Nashville and others of less importance, and was honorably discharged with his regiment on January 10, 1866, having been connected with the military service of his country for nearly four and one-half years. He is now a mem-

ber of Butterworth Post, No. 109, G. A. R., of which he has served as commander.

Following his return from the war Mr. Bennett took up his abode in Quincy, where in 1866 he engaged in the grocery and drug business. He followed merchandising there until 1893, but during the last ten years confined his attention to the drug and book trade, having disposed of his grocery stock. That he enjoyed a liberal patronage and a successful business is indicated by the fact that he continued actively in commercial circles for twenty-seven years. Selling out in Quincy in 1893 he removed to Coldwater, where he now makes his home. In 1870 he had established at Quincy, Michigan, the Bennett Newspaper & Magazine Agency, which was the pioneer enterprise of this line in the world. He conducted the business to a recent date, but in 1904 sold out.

Mr. Bennett was married in Quincy, Michigan, in 1868, to Miss Minnie J. Sheldon, a native of Ohio and a daughter of the Rev. Barbour N. and Maria Jane Sheldon, a history of whom is given elsewhere in this work. Both Mr. and Mrs. Bennett are prominent and zealous members of the Presbyterian church, and the captain is a Republican in politics, active in support of the party from early manhood. He has held a number of minor offices and was postmaster of Quincy under the administration of President Harrison. Well known in Branch county as a progressive, energetic and enterprising business man, he has also gained a wide acquaintance as a musician, and was the organizer of the Quincy band. He is likewise the composer of thirty-eight vocal selections, and in musical circles his reputation extends far beyond the limits of this county.

DELIVAN SORTER.

Delivan Sorter, who is engaged in general farming in Ovid township, was born in this part of Branch county on the 8th of May, 1846, his parents being Jacob and Hannah (Clark) Sorter, both of whom were natives of Steuben county, New York. The paternal grandparents removed to New Jersey from the Empire state, and there Jacob Sorter was reared and educated. He chose as a companion and helpmate for life's journey Miss Hannah Clark, who also spent her childhood in that locality. In pioneer times they came westward to Branch county, arriving in Michigan in 1838, at which time they settled in Ovid township upon a farm of forty acres. All around was the forest and it was only here and there that a settler had made a little clearing and begun the development of a farm. Mr. Sorter cut away the trees, plowed the land and tilled the fields, and in due course of time had his entire farm under cultivation. He lived upon that place for three years and a half and then purchased what has since been known as the Sorter farm, entering eighty acres of land from the government and buying the remainder from other parties. The place comprises two hundred and sixty acres of land, the greater part of which is under cultivation. Mr. Sorter bought and sold various farms in the county and capably conducted his business interests with the result that as the years passed he acquired a handsome competence. In politics he was always earnest and active in support of the

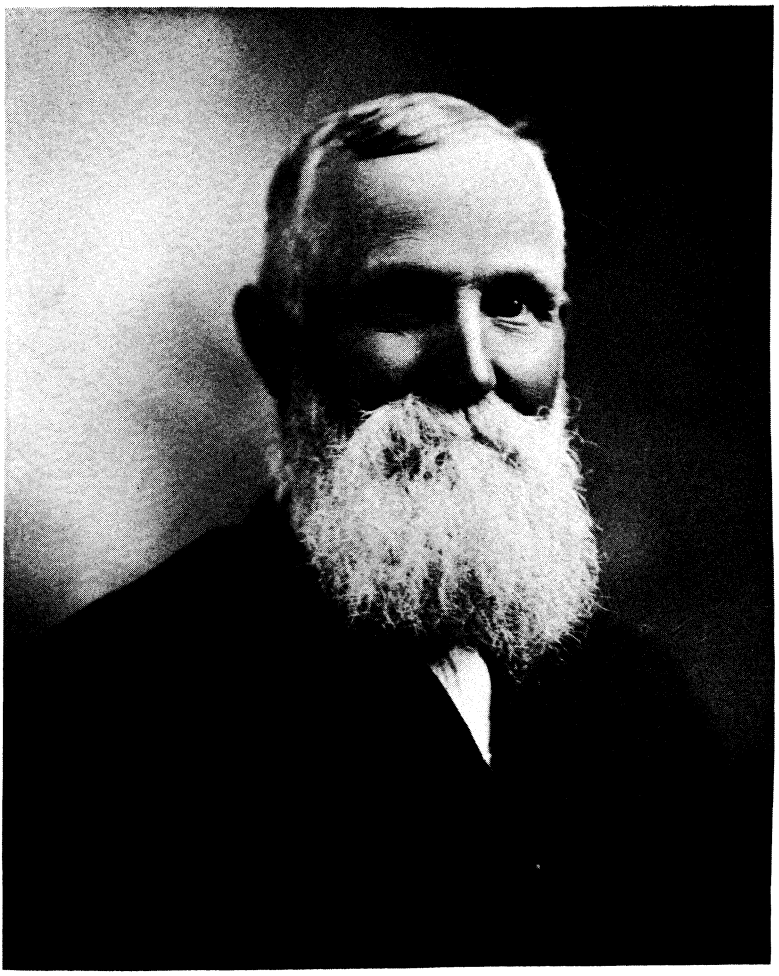
principles of Democracy and he did everything in his power to promote the growth and insure the success of his party. His death occurred in 1882, when he was eighty years of age, and thus passed away one of the honored pioneer residents of this section of Michigan. In the family were eight children, three of whom were born in New York, while five were born in Branch county. All were sons, and the eldest died in infancy. The others were George, William, Henry, Andrew, James, Delivan and David.

Delivan Sorter spent the days of his boyhood and youth in Ovid township and assisted his father in clearing and cultivating the old homestead. He had the opportunity of attending the district schools and thus qualified for life's practical and responsible duties. His active labor in the fields also prepared him for carrying on the farm work when he took charge of his own property in later years. He now has fifty acres where he resides, and twenty acres additional in the township, and his farm labors are characterized by a thorough understanding of agricultural methods and by unremitting diligence in the promotion of his work.

In 1875 Mr. Sorter was united in marriage to Miss Esther A. Merrill, a daughter of Joseph S. and Mary A. Merrill. Mrs. Sorter was born in Ovid township, near the Quinby schoolhouse, on the 28th of September, 1854, representing one of the pioneer families of this part of the state. Her father was a native of Maine and when fifteen years of age left New England and went to Ohio, where he remained until 1848. He then came to Branch county, which was largely a wild and unimproved district at that time. He settled upon a farm of forty acres, then covered with timber, and cleared most of that place. In 1851, however, he went to California, attracted by the discovery of gold in that state, and there he remained for about two years searching for the precious metal. Returning to Branch county he bought another farm in Ovid township, becoming owner of two hundred acres of timber land, which he cleared through hard work. No one who has not performed a similar service can understand the arduous toil involved in such a task. One by one the trees have to be felled, the stumps grubbed out and the brush cleared away or burned. Then follows the work of plowing, harrowing and planting, and thus the task of cultivating the fields is carried forward until rich harvests are garnered as a reward for the former toil. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Joseph S. Merrill were born three children, two sons and a daughter. The mother, however, died when Mrs. Sorter was only about a year old, and the father afterward married again, his second union being with Mrs. Sallie Hanford Summers, the widow of Thomas Summers, who by her former marriage had one daughter, Teresa. By the second marriage there was one son, Levi. Mrs. Sorter's father was married a third time when Mrs. Louisa J. (Hibner) Grover became his wife. She was the mother of two children, a daughter and son, Laura and Frank, who were born of her former marriage, while by Mr. Merrill she had two sons, J. S. and Allen Ozias, the latter now deceased. Mr. Merrill was an earnest Republican in his political views and was a well-known man, who had a wide and favorable acquaintance throughout the county. He died October 17, 1879, when well advanced in years, leaving behind him an honorable name.



Mrs. J. F. Phillips



John H. Phillips

At the time of their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Sorter settled upon the William Sorter farm, where they lived for a year and then spent the succeeding three years upon their present place. On the expiration of that period they returned to the old homestead and Mr. Sorter devoted two years to the care of his aged father and the management of the property. The father died in his eightieth year, and thus passed away an honored and pioneer resident of Branch county. He had given his political allegiance to the Democracy, and at the time of his death he was the owner of fifty acres of land in Ovid township in one tract and twenty acres in another tract. Mr. Sorter of this review has devoted his entire life to agricultural pursuits, and in his work is practical, energetic and persistent—qualities which always insure success. In politics he is largely independent, voting for men and measures rather than party.

JOHN F. PHILLIPS.

Many of the successful men of this country have achieved success while conducting agriculture along with other lines of business, giving a portion of their time to each avocation and becoming adept in each. One of these is the gentleman named above, Mr. John F. Phillips, who occupies a comfortable farm home on section sixteen, Kinderhook township.

Mr. Phillips is of English birth, he having been born in Cornwall, England, May 6, 1844. The Phillips had been residents of Cornwall for many generations and the first of the family to leave the mother country and come to America was the paternal grandfather of our subject, who settled in Hastings county, Canada, where he spent the remainder of his life. Our subject's father, John Phillips, was also born in Cornwall, England, where he grew to manhood and married Elizabeth Roberts, a native of the same place. They were the parents of three children, when, a few years after the departure of the senior Phillips, they decided to also try their fortunes in the new country. They made the voyage in 1850 and likewise located in Ontario upon a new farm. The father died two years after their arrival and the son, John F., was brought up by strangers, he being only eight years old when his father died. John Phillips and Mary Roberts Phillips were the parents of five children, as follows: Peter died in Hastings, Canada; John F. is the subject of this review; Mary Honey, Susan Holmes and Josiah Phillips always made their home in Ontario, and of the family only John F. and Mary Honey are living. The mother also died in Ontario in 1880.

John F. Phillips lived in Canada until 1865 and then went to Lockport, New York. He had learned the trade of carpenter and joiner in Canada and after going to Lockport he worked at his trade in shops there for several years. This was followed by two years' work upon a farm not far from Lockport, after which he worked at his trade at Charlottesville, New York, until 1871, when he came to Michigan, locating first at Kinderhook Corners, where he remained for two years. His first purchase of land was fifty acres, which comprises a portion of his present farm, and in later years he increased this to one hundred and eighteen acres. The place was but little improved and he cleared the land himself, working also at his trade when opportunity

offered. It is an acknowledged fact that no carpenter or contractor in this portion of the county has so many good buildings to his credit as has Mr. Phillips. He has been engaged in construction in all the southern townships of Branch county, as well as in the northern townships of Steuben county, Indiana, and his buildings have stood the test of years.

Mr. Phillips was married, March 30, 1871, to Emma Ketchum, who was born in Niagara county, New York, February 8, 1846, and who died here January 10, 1887. Two children were born unto them: Mertie is the wife of Frank Whaley and their home is in Kinderhook; they have one daughter, Mildred. The other daughter, Nettie L., is the wife of Francis Flandemeyer and they live in Coldwater, Michigan. Mrs. Phillips' parents were George Ketchum and Mary Jane West, natives of western New York state, where Mrs. Ketchum died, her husband afterward coming to Michigan and dying at Flint December 11, 1905. Three of the Ketchum children are still living: Mrs. L. J. Skinner, of Flint, Michigan; William I. Ketchum, of New Fane, New York; and Charles Ketchum, of Lockport, New York.

The second marriage of Mr. Phillips occurred November 11, 1888, when he was united with Miss Alice A. Hess, a native of Alabama, New York, where she was born May 5, 1859, her father being Phillip Hess, born in Germany, and her mother being Mary Lawrence, a native of Royalton, New York. Mr. Hess was born March 31, 1821, and Mary Lawrence was born December 6, 1823. They were married at Buffalo, New York, and were the parents of nine children, all of whom grew to maturity, as follows: Charles H. lives in South Dakota; Frances Ross died in South Frankfort, Michigan; Homer died in Orleans county, New York; Mary Martin lives in Kinderhook; Nellie died in New York state; George P. died in Genesee county, New York; Iona J. Thompson lives in Genesee county, New York; Martin K. lives in Kinderhook; Alice Phillips is the wife of our subject. Mr. and Mrs. Hess were esteemed people and both members of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Hess died April 19, 1902, while Mrs. Hess passed away November 20, 1897. Tracing their genealogy still further we learn that the father of Mr. Hess was George Hess, while the father of Mrs. Hess was Alvin Lawrence, whose wife was Abigail Parker, both being of English descent. The marriage of John F. Phillips and Alice Hess has been a particularly happy one, and it has been blessed with one son, Clare J., whose birth occurred September 28, 1895. He lives at home with his parents and is attending school.

In addition to his business as a builder, Mr. Phillips also finds a great deal of his time occupied with other outside matters, he having been administrator of many estates and dealing considerably in real estate of various kinds. At the same time he manages his farm after the best and most approved methods and we find it a model in condition and general appearance, being supplied with excellent buildings and all needful machinery for operation. The whole premises possess a remarkable neatness of appearance, the owner being methodical and having an eye for beauty as well as utility.

Although of necessity a very busy man, nevertheless Mr. Phillips finds time for fraternal and social duties and he is a member of the Masonic order.

Greenleaf Lodge No. 349, and the A. O. U. W. in Kinderhook. Mr. and Mrs. Phillips are also members of the Methodist Episcopal church in Kinderhook.

THOMAS W. MACK.

Thomas W. Mack, who for more than half a century has resided in Branch county, was born in Conneaught, Erie county, Pennsylvania, July 20, 1833, his parents being Joel and Marcia (Ward) Mack, the latter an adopted daughter of Thomas Ward. The father, Joel Mack, was a native of the Empire state and after residing in Pennsylvania for some time removed to Ohio in 1835, settling in Florence, Erie county, where the family remained for twenty years, but the father passed away at the age of thirty-three years. The mother and her children came to Michigan in March, 1854, and Mrs. Mack afterward married again, becoming Mrs. Johnson. She died in Girard Center in 1883 at the age of seventy years. They were the parents of five children: Cordelia, who died in infancy; Joseph, who died at the age of seven years; Truman, a farmer of Girard township; Joel, an agriculturist living in Union township; and Thomas W., of this review.

Thomas W. Mack spent the days of his youth largely in Florence, Erie county, Ohio, and early learned the value of industry and perseverance as effective factors in a business career. Before leaving Ohio he was married on the 16th of November, 1853, to Miss Eleanor Packard, a daughter of Jeremiah and Patience (Orvis) Packard, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Connecticut. Mrs. Packard passed away May 10, 1835, in Pennsylvania, while the death of Mr. Packard occurred in Huron county, Ohio, October 25, 1865. They had two children: Mrs. Mack; and Caroline, who became Mrs. Daniels and always made her home in Ohio, but died in New York city, May 6, 1865, having gone there on a visit. Mr. Packard after the death of his first wife was married March 28, 1836, to Minerva Hyde, and they had three children: Melissa Lance, Schuyler Packard and Riley Packard, all of whom are deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Mack have become the parents of three daughters: Patience Minerva, who was born in Union township, August 7, 1857, died there June 21, 1862. Patience Philena, born in Girard township, February 20, 1866, died in Union township, April 15, 1876. Elsie, born in Union township, September 30, 1854, was married September 5, 1870, to Charles Edwin Perry, a native of Fredonia, Calhoun county, where he was born January 18, 1848. He was a farmer by occupation and spent nearly his entire life in Girard township. During the period of the Civil war he enlisted on the 2nd of September, 1864, in Company C, Twenty-eighth Michigan Infantry, and was discharged May 26, 1865, at the close of hostilities. At the battle of Nashville he contracted a lung disease and never fully recovered, dying from the effects April 6, 1889, at his home in Girard township. He left a widow and two daughters: Clara M., who was born May 24, 1872, and is the wife of Boyce Wagoner, of Girard township, by whom she has one son, Roland; and Orpha J. Perry, who was born June 2, 1875, and is the wife of Frank Johnson, of Albion, Michigan. They have three children: Harold Edward, Gladys Elinor and Leila Bernice.

Mrs. Perry now lives at Girard Center and occupies an enviable social position there. She belongs to Butterworth Corps, W. R. C., at Coldwater, Avondale Hive, L. O. T. M., at Tekonsha, and is also a member and active worker in the Girard Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. and Mrs. Mack have been continuous residents of Branch county for fifty-one years, living in Union township until October, 1902, when they came to Girard to spend their remaining days. Following their arrival in this county Mr. Mack purchased forty acres of new land in Union township, which he cleared and cultivated. He also purchased and aided in clearing two other farms there, and he still owns eighty acres of valuable and productive land on section thirteen, Union township. He has followed blacksmithing for many years in connection with agricultural pursuits and has long lived a life of untiring activity and enterprise. He found here a new and undeveloped region and assisted in its reclamation. His efforts have aided in transforming the wild land into productive fields and at all times he has furthered progressive public measures which have been the source of substantial upbuilding and progress in the county. An upright man, he has enjoyed the confidence and esteem of all with whom he has come in contact, and his life record is an indication that honorable effort wins not only success, but also the high regard of one's fellow men.

ADISON P. JOHNSON.

From an early period in the development and upbuilding of Branch county Adison P. Johnson has resided within its borders and his home is on section two, Batavia township. He was born in Huron county, Ohio, on the 31st of October, 1833. His father, Hezekiah Johnson, was a native of Green county, New York, was there reared and became a carpenter and farmer. His father was born in Yonkers, Connecticut, and removed to the Empire state at an early day. Hezekiah Johnson, after his marriage, left New York and went to Huron county, Ohio, about 1830, there residing for a long period, after which he came to Michigan about 1864, settling in Quincy township, Branch county, upon a farm which remained his place of residence up to the time of his death. He passed away at the age of eighty-four years, leaving to his family the priceless heritage of a good name and also a comfortable competence. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Cornelia Frayer, was born in New York and reached the very venerable age of ninety-five years. In their family were eleven children, nine of whom grew to manhood or womanhood, Adison P. Johnson being the seventh child and sixth son.

In the place of his nativity Mr. Johnson, of this review, spent his boyhood and youth and was a district school student. He remained with his father until he was of age, assisting him on the farm. He also worked by the day for one summer and he gained a practical knowledge of the best methods of carrying on agricultural pursuits. Before he left Ohio he was married to Miss Sylva Van Dusen, who died, leaving four children: Ella May, the wife of Jerome Hawley, of Traverse City, Michigan; Della, the

wife of Adelbert Martin, a resident of Batavia township; Kenneth, deceased; and Melvin A., who is living in Batavia township.

In the year 1866 Mr. Johnson removed to Hillsdale county, Michigan, and in 1871 came to Batavia township, Branch county, locating where he now resides. Since that time he has carried on general farming, having eighty acres of land which he now rents. It was upon this farm that his wife died on January 10, 1898, and on the 4th of April, 1901, Mr. Johnson was married to Mrs. Lottie Hoffman, the widow of Dr. D. Hoffman, of McConnelsville, Ohio, and a daughter of Enoch and Juliet A. (Hall) Dye. She was born in Smithfield, Jefferson county, Ohio, and has been three times married, her first union being with James T. Hood, by whom she had one son, William Hood. Mrs. Johnson is a direct descendant of the great Dye family of Ohio, who has a claim on a large estate in Scotland and England.

Mr. Johnson votes with the Democracy where national issues are involved, but at local elections casts an independent ballot. He has served as highway commissioner in Batavia township, but the honors and emoluments of office have had little attraction for him. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity, with which he has been identified since twenty-one years of age, his membership being now in Tyre Lodge of Coldwater.

FRANK N. WILLIAMS.

Frank N. Williams, one of the ablest insurance men of the county, was born June 10, 1867, in the city of Coldwater, where he yet makes his home, having spent his entire life here. His father, W. Job Williams, was born in Dewitt, Onondaga county, New York, on the 14th of February, 1840. His paternal grandfather, Simon Zelotes Williams, came to Michigan in 1835, locating in Gilead, Branch county, but subsequently returned to the Empire state in 1838. Once more, however, he took up his abode in Gilead in 1842, and afterward removed to Coldwater, passing his remaining days there. The Williams family came originally from Wales, and the branch to which our subject belongs is descended from Roger Williams, who landed with the Pilgrims and was prominent in the settlement of New England, where he was known as the "apostle of peace." He settled in Massachusetts, but because of his religious faith was driven to Rhode Island with others who held similar views. He became the founder of the colony of Rhode Island and also of the city of Providence. Major Williams, an ancestor of our subject, was an aide to General Washington. Job Williams, the great-grandfather, settled in Dewitt, Onondaga county, New York, and thence representatives of the name came to Michigan, founding the family in this state.

W. Job Williams, father of our subject, arrived in Branch county in 1842 with his parents and lived in Gilead for twenty years. He afterward spent five years as an agriculturist in Ovid township and then came to Coldwater, having resided in this city since twenty-six years of age. He is a member of the Masonic lodge and is well known here as a representative citizen and a man of many good qualities and characteristics. For two years

he has served as city marshal. He married Miss Harriet Stowell, who was born in Ovid township, this county, on the 4th of August, 1845. The Stowells originally lived in Connecticut and New Hampshire, and at a later day the family was founded in New York, whence representatives of the name came to Michigan, settling in Branch county. The marriage of W. Job Williams and Harriet Stowell was celebrated in Bethel township, March 23, 1862, and for thirty-eight years they traveled life's journey together, but were separated by the death of the wife on the 20th of December, 1900. They were the parents of three children: Samuel Zelotes, Frank N. and Mabel M. Williams, all of this county.

Frank N. Williams acquired a common school education and first engaged in business for himself in 1889. He continued merchandising for thirteen years, selling harness, carriages and bicycles. He then owned and conducted livery stables for three years, but disposed of his business in that line in 1903, and has since devoted his energies to the insurance business, representing both accident and life companies. He is to-day agent for the Mutual Benefit Life of Newark, New Jersey, and the Aetna Accident Insurance Company of Hartford, Connecticut. He has been eminently successful in every line of business in which he has directed his energies, and is to-day considered one of the ablest insurance men of the county.

On the 4th of March, 1898, Mr. Williams was united in marriage to Miss Estelle Rawson, who was born in Coldwater, April 28, 1869, and is a daughter of James M. Rawson, whose birth occurred in Weedsport, New York, February 13, 1836. The Rawsons are of English descent, tracing their ancestry back through Edward Rawson, who in 1636 was a resident of Newberry, Massachusetts, and served as secretary of the Massachusetts colony. James M. Rawson came from New York to Michigan in 1847, locating in Bethel, Branch county. Through much of his life he was engaged in business as a traveling salesman. He served as a soldier of the Civil war, enlisting in 1864 in Company C, Twenty-eighth Michigan Infantry, with which he continued until after the close of hostilities. He was married in Centerville, this state, to Miss Charlotte E. Nichols, who was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, January 24, 1845, and is still living in the city of Coldwater. Mr. Rawson, however, died in this city, September 29, 1903. He lived an upright, honorable life and won the merited esteem of his fellowmen. Mrs. Rawson has membership relations with the Coldwater Assembly, a religious organization. Unto this worthy couple were born five children, all of whom are residents of Coldwater, namely: Mrs. Lottie M. Hawes; Mrs. Estelle Williams; Mrs. Bernice Brant; Mrs. Bessie Deuser; and Paul J. Rawson.

In his political views Mr. Williams is a stalwart Republican, but has never been an office holder nor desired official preferment as a reward for party fealty. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and socially with the Arion Club of Coldwater. He is exceedingly popular, having many warm friends in the city in which his entire life has been passed. Here he owns a comfortable home, which he built, and he has

been very successful in his business career, despite obstacles that would have utterly discouraged many a man of less resolute and determined nature and laudable ambition.

CHARLES HOMER SAGER.

Charles Homer Sager, interested in general agricultural pursuits, his home farm being in Bronson township, was born in 1842 in Bronson township, his parents being George and Emily Jane (Blanchard) Sager. The father was born in the state of New York, May 2, 1824, and they were married at Burroak, Michigan. George Sager had come to this state with his father, John Sager, in 1835, and the grandfather had purchased a tract of land of one hundred and sixty acres on the Chicago road, now known as Johnson's place. There, as a pioneer settler, he began the cultivation and improvement of his farm, which he continued to make his home up to the time of his death. In his family were seven children: George, Zid, Isaac, John, Mary Ann, Katherine and Eliza.

George Sager, the eldest son in this family, lived upon the old farm homestead until eighteen years of age, when he started out in life on his own account. Through two and a half years he was employed by Mr. Lockerby in Burroak, after which he married Miss Blanchard of that place. He then took up his abode on the old Frye farm in what is now known as the Dutch settlement. This place comprised one hundred and twenty acres, and he continued its cultivation until about 1852, when he sold that place and bought three hundred acres on section twenty-eight. To this he afterward added one hundred acres adjoining, and there he carried on general farming and stock-raising, making a specialty of dealing in sheep. He was industrious and persevering, and the large farm which he acquired showed that he was very successful. In all of his business dealings he was straightforward and honorable, as well as energetic, and he won for himself a creditable name. He died in January, 1899, while his wife passed away about 1889. They were the parents of eleven children: Mary Jane, Homer, Margaret, George H., Louisa N., Rosellie, Isaac, Albert, Lucy, Carrie and Joseph.

Charles Homer Sager began his education in the district schools and remained upon his father's farm until 1861, during which time he assisted in clearing the land, plowing the fields and harvesting the crops. He was a young man of nineteen years when, in response to his country's call for aid, he offered his services to the government and was assigned to duty with Company B, First Michigan Regiment. This command was attached to the Army of the Potomac, and he participated in all of its battles, including the engagements at Fredericksburg, Bull Run and Fair Oaks. He was wounded at Moline Hill, where he had his forefinger shot away, and he also had a leg broken at Fredericksburg. He likewise was struck by a ball at Antietam and, because of his wounds, received an honorable discharge.

Mr. Sager was married in 1863 to Miss Martha J. Woodhull, a daughter of Stephen Woodhull, after which he rented a tract of land and was thus engaged in farming for several years. In 1865 he removed to Kansas,

settling in Ottawa county, where he spent two years and then returned to Michigan, living for five years in this state at that time. About 1872 he again went to Kansas, where he continued until 1878, when he went to the Indian Territory, and there leased one thousand acres of Indian land. He farmed there successfully and continuously for twenty-one years, or until 1899, when, on account of his father's death, he returned to Michigan. While in Kansas and in Indian Territory he had operated a threshing machine and was extensively engaged in the raising of wheat. Following his father's death he received as his inheritance one hundred and ten acres of the old homestead, and he is now operating this farm, being recognized as one of the substantial and progressive agriculturists of his community. His land is productive, and owing to the care and labor which he bestows upon the place he now harvests large crops, which bring him a good financial return.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Sager have been born eight children: Luther L., who married Lillie Bonner, of Kansas, by whom he had seven children, has always been associated with his father in business; John is living in Branch county; Abraham was killed in Tacoma, Washington, in 1901; Cora is the wife of Clarence Monroe, a resident of Matteson township; the younger members of the family are William McKinley, Maggie, Charlie and Frank, are deceased, but William McKinley.

Mr. Sager is a Republican in his political views, but has never sought or desired office, giving his attention to business affairs that have made him an experienced and prosperous farmer.

JAMES RICHEY.

Among the many good men who have spent their entire lives in Branch county, none left a better life record or were held in higher esteem than the gentleman named above, the late James Richey. Mr. Richey was born in Ulysses county, New York, June 29, 1832, and he was only five years of age when he accompanied his parents from the state of New York to Sandusky county, Ohio, this taking place in 1837. The Richeys came from Pennsylvania and were of Dutch descent, our subject's father being Isaac Richey, while his mother was Aseneth Carpenter, whose people came from the eastern states. Isaac Richey and Aseneth Carpenter were married in New York state and they were the parents of eight children, only three of whom are now living: Harriet Terry, of Nevada, Indiana; Charles Richey, of California; and Ellen Munger, also of the state of California. The parents, after a residence of several years in New York state, removed to Sandusky county, Ohio, where they lived for twenty years, and then afterward came to Branch county, Michigan, where they passed the remainder of their days in the township of Kinderhook.

Their son, James Richey, accompanied his parents from New York state to Ohio, and from there to Michigan, and he lived at home until his marriage, with the exception of the period of his enlistment in the Civil war. He grew to manhood in Sandusky county, Ohio, and there it was that he responded to the call of his country at the outbreak of the great conflict, enlisting in the



The Residence of Mr. and Mrs. James Richey



James Richey

latter part of 1861 in the Seventy-second Ohio Infantry, and serving until April of the following year, when he was disabled by a gunshot wound which incapacitated him from a soldier's duties and, in fact, crippled him for the remainder of his life. He was sergeant of his company at the time of enlistment and served as such until his discharge.

A few years after the close of the war Mr. Richey was married, December 21, 1868, to Alvira Depew, but their union was of brief duration, for she died July 25 of the following year. Mr. Richey's second marriage was consummated April 26, 1878, when he was united with Miss Mary E. Flint, who was born in the township of Eckford, Calhoun county, Michigan, July 26, 1846. She came from one of the sturdy and highly respected families who came from the east in the early thirties and made for themselves comfortable homes in the then untrodden middle west. Her father, Aseryl Flint, was born in Roxbury, Vermont, March 26, 1807, and her mother was before marriage Saloma Sumner, who was born in Middlebury, Vermont, February 12, 1811. They were married in Vermont and were the parents of the following children, all of whom grew to maturity, they being as follows: Jane Jones is a resident of Kinderhook; Samuel A. passed almost his entire life in Clarendon, Michigan, where he was one of the leading men of Calhoun county, where he died in 1900; Salome and Harriet both died in Ovid township, this county, the former in 1897 and the latter in 1892; Albert lives in Nebraska; Rollin died in Kinderhook, in 1904; Julia Ann died here in 1902; Mary E. Richey is the widow of our subject; Henry P. lives in Kinderhook; Olive Dawes lives in Jamestown, Indiana; Emma Marshall is a resident of Ovid, this county.

Aseryl Flint and his family came from the east in 1835 and first located in Michigan, in the township of Eckford, Calhoun county, where they lived until 1851, then removing to Branch county and Kinderhook township, where the parents passed the remainder of their lives. Mr. Flint's first purchase of land here was something over two hundred acres, for which he paid one thousand dollars. This land was almost wholly uncleared and unimproved, and, in fact, this entire region was in a virgin state, with dense forests, poor highways and neighbors few and far between. The members of the Flint family were, however, industrious people and they worked with a will in making themselves a home here. The parents were people of high character and they proved important factors in the early history and development of this part of the county of Branch. Mr. Flint was a deeply religious man, with high ideals, and his life was an open and unsullied book. Of good physique and industrious habits, it is related of him that frequently, after a long and hard day's work, he would take advantage of a moonlight night to continue his labors, such was his ambition to provide comforts for his loved ones and to attain a competence. He was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church and a man who possessed the respect of all who knew him. He did not live long after coming to Branch county, however, to enjoy the fruits of his labors, for his death occurred here May 3, 1856. Mrs. Flint was thus left a widow with nine children under the age of eighteen years and with a

farm to manage. With rare courage she attacked the problem, keeping her children together and managing her affairs with unquestioning faith and remarkable executive ability. This she continued to do during the remainder of her long and useful life and before her death she had the satisfaction of seeing all of her children married and with families and comfortable homes of their own. She was truly a most remarkable woman, one of a thousand, and when her death came, September 17, 1899, she left behind her hundreds of sorrowing relatives and friends. She was an intensely religious woman, joining the Methodist Episcopal church when she was but a young girl, and leading a thoroughly Christian life through its eighty-seven years' duration. Her business affairs were conducted with unerring judgment and only a few days before her death she was engrossed in their details.

With parents of such sterling worth of character it is no wonder that the Flint children grew to be men and women of importance here, where so many of the family still reside. Mr. James Richey spent the greater portion of his life in Kinderhook township, and here he held a very high place in the regard and confidence of the people. He purchased his farm on section eleven, Kinderhook township, before his marriage, and although the place was cleared of timber, nevertheless there were few improvements in the way of buildings, etc., and there remained plenty of work to do in making a home here. Each year witnessed improvement in the farm and before long it was one of the comfortable and attractive homes of this vicinity. He was oft-times selected as judge in the Branch County Fair Association on stock, wool and grain.

That Mr. Richey was a man whom the people looked up to as honorable, capable and trustworthy, is plainly evidenced by the many times he was chosen to fill positions of trust and responsibility. In fact, his fellow-townsmen had implicit confidence in him, and they knew that in his hands their interests would be well and carefully guarded. He was supervisor of Kinderhook township for no less than fifteen years, and his valuable experience in this line led to his being placed upon the more important standing and special committees of the Branch County Board of Supervisors. He always looked carefully after the interests of his own township and also showed unusual capability in the transaction of the general business of the county. Mr. Richey was also township clerk for several terms and held other local offices, always performing his public duties faithfully and well. He was also director of the Branch County Mutual Fire Insurance Company for many years, and he was always interested in any movement tending toward the betterment of the people and the improvement of his town and county. He was a stanch Republican and his advice was always sought in the councils of his party. Fraternally he was affiliated with Tyre Lodge, F. & A. M., of Coldwater, and was one of the honored members of the Butterworth G. A. R. Post at Coldwater, Michigan. Mr. Richey's death occurred November 20, 1903, at the age of seventy-two years. He is survived by Mrs. Richey, who still occupies the farm home in Kinderhook township.

JAMES S. OGDEN.

Branch county has numerous beautiful farm homes, but none of them surpasses in neatness, beauty and general utility that of the gentleman named above, which is located on section two in the township of Kinderhook. The whole place, in fact, reflects the character of the owner and his family, who are among the well-to-do and highly respected residents of this part of the county.

The Ogdens are of English descent, the paternal grandfather of our subject being John R. Ogden, who came from England in the beginning of the nineteenth century and settled in the state of New York. His wife was Harriet Parker, who died in New York state, her husband dying later at Davenport, Iowa. One of their children, Wyman Ogden, was the father of James S. Ogden, and from him is the present branch of the Ogden family descended. Wyman Ogden was born in Hornellsville, Steuben county, New York, April 21, 1819, and he was married in Bingham, Potter county, Pennsylvania, July 18, 1841, to Amanda M. Gifford, who was born at Cio, Allegheny county, New York, December 28, 1826. Her parents removed from New York to Pennsylvania, and there it was that she met Wyman Ogden, who was then in his young manhood employed in rafting timber down the Allegheny river. Soon after marriage they located in Steuben county, New York, and in 1855 they came to Michigan and Branch county, locating in Algansee township, where Mrs. Ogden died November 21, 1861. They were the parents of eleven children, four of whom died in infancy, the others being as follows: Edward S. died in Andersonville prison during the Civil war; Henry J. is an inmate of the Soldiers' home at Grand Rapids, Michigan; Pardon G. lives in Kinderhook; Levi F. lives at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan; James S. is our subject; Wyman P. lives at Belvidere, Illinois; Charles S. is a resident of Wexford county, Michigan. After the death of his first wife, the father, Wyman Ogden, removed to Angola, Indiana, where he married Mary A. Sowle, by whom he had two children: Allen E., who lives at Angola, Indiana, and Cora D., who is a resident of Allegheny, Pennsylvania. Mary Sowle Ogden died in Pennsylvania in 1901, while Wyman Ogden passed away here at the home of his son, July 22, 1904, where he had been living for several years. William Ogden was a stonemason by trade, although he also owned and operated farms during the greater part of his life. In addition to his farm in Algansee township he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of new land in Wexford county, Michigan, which he cleared, living there a number of years. In Wexford county he was township clerk, treasurer and highway commissioner for repeated terms and was a man of influence and high standing. Fraternally he was a Blue Lodge Mason and in early life he belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church, although later belonging to the Liberal United Brethren church. Our subject's mother was a member of the Methodist Episcopal society and the Eastern Star.

James S. Ogden was only two years of age when he accompanied his parents from New York to Michigan, and he lived in California and Algansee townships until twenty years of age, also being in Wexford county for

three years, assisting his father in clearing the new land there. He learned the trade of stonemason, at which he has worked nearly all his life, although at the same time operating his farm. His first ownership of land was in Algansee township in 1879, and he purchased his present farm on section two, Kinderhook township, in February, 1881, since which time this place has been his home. His first purchase here was sixty acres and later purchases have increased it to one hundred and sixty acres. Although this place was not cleared by Mr. Ogden, nevertheless he has made great improvements thereon in the way of buildings, fences, hedges, etc., it being now most attractive.

Mr. Ogden was married December 25, 1879, to Mary A. Burdick, who was born on this farm March 2, 1855. Her father was Beriah L. Burdick, who was born in Brattleboro, Vermont, March 17, 1802, and his parents in turn were Pardon Burdick and Polly Lewis, both residents of Vermont. Mrs. Ogden's mother was Lucy Ann Stokes, who was born October 24, 1819. Mr. and Mrs. Burdick were married April 26, 1846, in Steuben county, Indiana, and lived there some years after marriage. They came to Kinderhook in 1852 and passed the remainder of their lives on this farm, Mrs. Burdick dying October 30, 1863, and Mr. Burdick, December 31, 1875. Both were respected people, and Mrs. Burdick was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. The Burdicks had six children, as follows: Oscar died in early childhood; Albert lives in Gilead, this county; Frank P. lives at Fremont, Indiana; Clark died in San Francisco, California; Mary A. Ogden is the wife of our subject, and J. B. resides in Chicago, and was shipping clerk of an express company a number of years, eight in total, and is now employed with a large firm on the south side.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. James S. Ogden has been blessed with the birth of three children: Ernest C., Elsie D. and Ray E. The two sons live at home with their parents, while Elsie, the daughter, is the wife of William Hoyt. They live in this township and have one daughter, Margaret. Ernest C. Ogden, the eldest of the children, although past his majority, still resides at home and he is interested with his father in the management and operation of the farm. He was born October 2, 1883, and has secured a good practical education. He is an energetic young man, thoroughly posted on agricultural matters and much of the responsibility of conducting the farm falls upon his shoulders. He is a member of Greenleaf Lodge No. 349, F. & A. M., and that he stands high in the regard of its members is plainly shown by the fact that the first year of his membership he was chosen as secretary of the lodge, a position which he still retains, and is now justice of the peace of the township.

Although following a line of general farming, nevertheless Mr. Ogden and his son have specialized somewhat in Hereford cattle in an effort to improve the stock of this vicinity, in which they have been very successful.

James S. Ogden has the thorough confidence of his fellow townsmen and he has been frequently called to serve them, being supervisor of his township in 1898-99 and 1900; township treasurer from 1885-87 and elected again in 1906, and assessor of his school district ever since 1884. Politically

he is a Democrat. Mr. Ogden was also a charter member of Greenleaf Lodge No. 349, F. & A. M., and besides being W. M. of the lodge for five years, has filled all the other chairs, including the office of secretary for four years. He is also affiliated with the I. O. O. F. and the K. O. T. M., while Mrs. Ogden is a member of the L. O. T. M.

SOUTHERLAND MOORE SEELY.

Southerland Moore Seely, now deceased, was born August 15, 1826, near Middletown, Orange county, New York. He was the ninth in a family of ten children born unto Holly and Elizabeth (Moore) Seely. The father was a native of Goshen, Orange county, New York, born August 7, 1787, and was of English and Scotch lineage, although the family was established in New England during an early period in the colonization of this county. The mother of our subject was of Quaker parentage and was born at Cornwall, New York, September 16, 1790. In the year 1829 Holly Seely, having sustained heavy losses through fire, removed his family to Newburg, New York, and afterward to Sussex county, New Jersey, and there conducted a tannery. It was during their residence in Sussex county that the wife and mother died in 1835. After her death Mr. Seely never attended school, and all his schooling came between his fifth and eighth years. The father afterward married again and later removed to Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania, where he also conducted a tannery. About 1832 the family came to Michigan, settling near Ypsilanti, and not more than a year later Southerland M. Seely started out in life for himself.

He left a home where he had no advantages or hope for an education and when thirteen years of age began the battle of life for himself as a poor boy. The facts of his career disclose wonderful success as he steadily made his way upward undeterred by obstacles and difficulties in his path. He became both wealthy and well informed. Going to Erie, Pennsylvania, he accepted a position as errand boy and general helper in a hotel and after three or four months he went to Georgetown, Pennsylvania, where he remained for a short period and was again employed in a hotel. At Mogadore, Ohio, he was employed for two years in a tannery, after which he was foreman there, remaining until 1844. In the following year he went to Mendham, New Jersey, where for a short period he worked in a tannery and afterward he was engaged in the boot and shoe business with Lewis A. Thompson, who subsequently became his father-in-law. This business relation was maintained until 1852, when on account of ill health he withdrew and turned his attention to the business of purchasing western horses and shipping them to the eastern market. Soon afterward, however, he purchased a stage coach line running from Coldwater to Marshall, Michigan, and used his horses on that line. He then planned a mail route from Marshall to Fort Wayne, Indiana, and in this manner extended the stage route, devoting his energies to the business until 1859, when he sold out and engaged in purchasing and selling horses again. To this he gave his time until after the outbreak of the Civil war. His next enterprise was a tan-

nery at Coldwater, and in the winter of 1863-4 he removed to New York City, where he engaged in dealing in bonds, stocks and mortgages. That business claimed his energies for several years and he was so successful that he amassed a large sum of money. He was perhaps the most noted capitalist that has lived in Branch county. In 1871 he returned to Coldwater on account of declining health and continued his residence here until his death, October 16, 1899.

Mr. Seely traveled extensively both in America and abroad and gained that culture, knowledge and experience which only travel can bring. His conversation was enriched with many interesting reminiscences and anecdotes of his journeys, and he was a most congenial companion. Though he was never a church member he attended the services of the Presbyterian church and was a very charitable man, giving freely of his means to those who needed assistance and to worthy benevolent objects.

It was on the 7th of April, 1853, that Mr. Seely was united in marriage to Miss Sarah J. Thompson, a daughter of Lewis A. Thompson of Mendham, New Jersey, who was born there in 1833 and now resides in Detroit. She is a member of the Presbyterian church. Mr. and Mrs. Seely have two daughters: Annie, who is living in Coldwater; and Mrs. W. N. Worcester, of Detroit.

The life history of Mr. Seely is notable in the fact that he rose from a very humble financial position to one of affluence. His business discernment and judgment were rarely at fault. He seemed to understand intricate business problems almost at a glance and he knew how best to utilize his opportunities so as to produce the greatest results. Nor was his path strewn with the wreck of other men's fortunes. He was just and upright in all his dealings and the secret of his prosperity lay in his close application, his indefatigable energy and his keen sagacity. In his life he displayed the sterling traits of character of friend, father and husband, being always loyal to those with whom he enjoyed social relations, while to his family he was most devoted.

CHARLES C. FENNER.

There is no better criterion of the worth of a locality as a place of residence and an indication of the advantages it offers its citizens than the fact that many of its native residents remain within its borders. Mr. Fenner is one of Branch county's native sons and is today a representative agriculturist here. He was born in Bethel township, August 18, 1858. His father, Collins Fenner, was a native of Chautauqua county, New York, born February 28, 1821. In his youth he learned the shoemaker's trade and followed that pursuit while living in the east. He married Lucinda Myers, and on coming to Michigan he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. He reached Branch county in pioneer times, when the settlers were few. It was only here and there that a log cabin was seen in the midst of the forests, indicating that the seeds of civilization had been planted that were in due time to bring forth rich fruit in splendid farms with all modern equipments. Mr. Fenner entered from the government eighty acres of land on section

fourteen, Bethel township, and with characteristic energy he began clearing this place. He built a log cabin and in true pioneer style began life here. As he cleared his land he turned the first furrows in the fields and in due course of time rich harvests were gathered. He kept adding to this land until he had one hundred and ninety acres in Bethel township, constituting a valuable farm, the greater part of which was under a high state of cultivation. He raised cattle and draft horses in connection with the improvement of the fields and was numbered among the progressive and practical agriculturists, his labors being of material benefit in the development of this part of the state. He died April 19, 1905, at the venerable age of eighty-four years, and thus passed away an honored pioneer settler who in his locality was respected by all who knew him. His widow still survives him and yet makes her home with her children. Mr. Fenner was a well read man, keeping informed upon the questions and issues of the day politically and otherwise. He voted with the Democracy, but had no political aspiration for himself, preferring to give his undivided attention to his business affairs, whereby he provided a comfortable home and living for his family. He had six children: Marby, who married A. R. Groves and is living in Coldwater; Corydon, a resident of Ovid township; Phebe, who became the wife of P. A. Buck, of Bronson, Branch county, and died September 5, 1892, at the age of forty-one years, eleven months and twenty-three days, leaving two children, Percy C. and Otis Buck; Calista, the wife of Charles Russel, of Ovid township; Charles C., whose name introduces this review; and Mary, the wife of George Fowler, a resident farmer of Coldwater township.

Charles C. Fenner is indebted to the district school system of Branch county for the educational privileges he enjoyed in youth, his time being divided between the duties of the school room, the pleasures of the play ground and the work of the farm. Under the direction of his father he was well trained in all of the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist and assisted him in the operation of the old homestead up to the time of his marriage. In 1889 he was united in marriage to Miss Emma Norton, a daughter of Ansel Norton. He then lived on the Norton farm for twelve years and came into possession of the home farm about 1886. He had operated this land in the meantime and he received as an inheritance one hundred and ten acres of land, to which he afterward added by purchase a tract of forty-two and a half acres on section thirteen, so that he has at the present time one hundred and fifty-seven and a half acres of rich and arable land. Here he carries on general farming but all of the grain that he raises he feeds to his stock, having sheep, hogs and horses upon his place, all of good grades. He sells annually considerable stock, receiving therefrom a good income. He is likewise a stockholder of the Creamery Company at Batavia and was the first man to sign the paper promoting this enterprise. From the beginning he has been one of its directors. In 1901 he built a fine residence on his farm, comprising one hundred and fifty-seven and one-half acres and the place is richly furnished, making a most attractive

home, its hospitality being greatly enjoyed by the many friends of the family.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Fenner have been born five children: Lulu Maud, who is now living in Coldwater; Clarence, Glema, Gladys and Eunice, all at home. The members of the household occupy an enviable position in the social circles in which they move. In politics Mr. Fenner is a Democrat, interested in the growth and success of his party. He was elected supervisor in 1898 and has since held that office with the exception of the year 1902. He was on the school board for a number of years and as a public official is always true to his duty, which he discharges with promptness and fidelity. His business record is alike creditable, for he is straightforward in all of his dealings, never taking advantage of the necessities of his fellowmen and he has found that diligence and enterprise constitute a safe and sure basis for the acquirement of a competence.

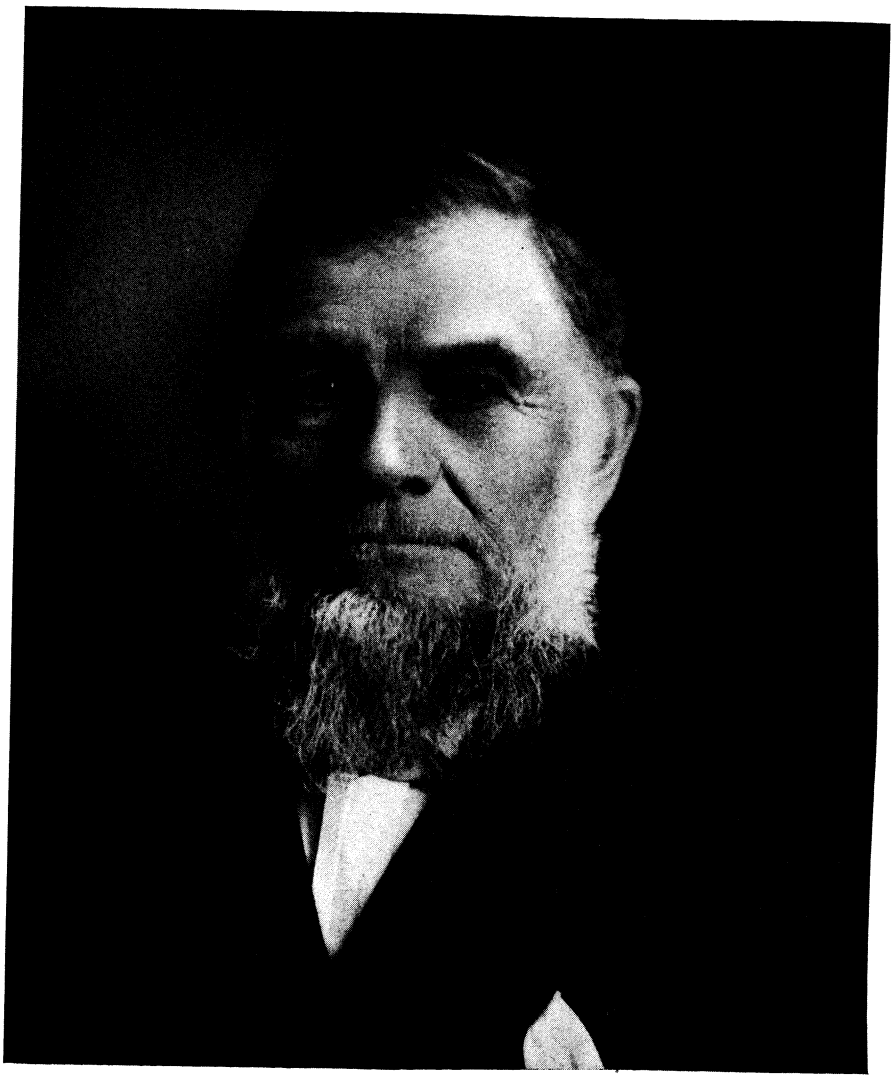
EDMUND W. QUICK.

E. W. Quick, whose landed possessions comprise one hundred and two acres in Noble township, is a native of England, his birth having occurred in Devonshire in April, 1835. His parents were James and Jane (Waller) Quick. The father was a farmer by occupation, always following that pursuit in order to provide for his family, which numbered seven children. His death occurred in England and E. W. Quick is the only representative of the family that has sought a home in America. He acquired a good education in the schools of his native country and was reared to farm life, lessons of industry, perseverance and integrity being early impressed upon his mind, so that in later years they have borne rich fruit. He continued on the old homestead until he had reached the age of twenty-two years, when, desiring to profit by the better business opportunities of the new world, he bade adieu to friends and native country and sailed for the United States. He did not tarry on the Atlantic coast, however, but came at once to Michigan and since 1858 has been a resident of this state. He married Miss Mary Martin, a daughter of Phillip Martin, who was born in Devonshire, in 1839, came from England in 1858, and they settled in Gilead township. There they lived for three years, and in 1861 Mr. Quick rented a farm, which he cultivated until 1863, when he invested his savings in a tract of forty acres on section twelve, Noble township. He then took up his abode on this place, and soon thereafter built a house and barn. As the years have passed he has added other equipments and now has a well improved property. In 1870 he bought fifty acres of land and subsequently added twelve acres, so that one hundred and two acres are now comprised within the boundaries of his place. He raises both grain and stock, feeding the former, and he has a good place, thoroughly in keeping with modern ideas of progressive agriculture.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Quick have been born seven children: Frank, who is now living in Daisy, North Dakota; Jessie, who became the wife of Luke Peachey and died in 1891; William, who is living in Daisy, North Dakota; Agnes, who married John Woodard and is a resident of Page, North Dakota;



Mrs E W Quick



E. W. Quick

Phillip, a physician practicing in Olivet, Michigan; Albert, who is in the mail service running out of Branson; and Sidney S., who is engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He was educated in Perdue University, and graduated in the class of 1906. He married Miss Grace Kellett, and they have one little son, Garrette Wayne. Mrs. Quick was born in La Grange county, Indiana, November 22, 1878, and is a daughter of Robert and Jane (Kelso) Kellett. All of his sons are prospering in life and the family is one of which the parents have every reason to be proud.

In his political views Mr. Quick is a stalwart Republican and cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1864, having in the meantime taken out his naturalization papers. He has been called to several public offices, serving for two terms as supervisor, also for two terms as treasurer of the township and as a member of the school board for twenty-six years, and there is no man in the community who is more thoroughly interested in the welfare and upbuilding of the county than Mr. Quick. He is loyal to American institutions, having a deep attachment for the land of his adoption. He has never regretted his determination to seek a home in the new world, for here he has found good business opportunities, and as the years have passed he has prospered in his undertakings. He has justly earned the proud American title of a self-made man, the only title which our liberty-loving people acknowledge, and as the architect of his own fortunes has builded wisely and well.

SAMUEL WATERS.

Some of the leading and most influential citizens of the prosperous county of Branch are its farmers, who, although still in their prime have made for themselves and families comfortable homes here and who are regarded as men of prominence in their town and county. One of these is the gentleman named above, Mr. Samuel Waters, who has already achieved a large measure of success in life.

Mr. Waters was born at Buffalo, New York, October 30, 1852, he being of English descent, and the only member of his family born in America. His father was James Waters and his mother was Elizabeth Cooper, both natives of Lincolnshire, England, where they spent their early married life. James Waters was always a farmer, and in England had charge of large farms, an avocation which he followed after coming to this country. He and his wife were the parents of nine children when in 1851 they decided to try their fortunes in America, and they located first at Buffalo, New York. Their means were very limited upon their arrival, but the English pluck and persistence won a way for them and they continued to grow in prosperity year after year. They lived at Buffalo for three years and then removed to White Pigeon, Michigan, where they remained for five years, going from there to Ohio and finally to Fremont, Indiana, where the parents died, the father in 1879 and the mother in 1881. Both were esteemed people and members of the Reformed church. Of their ten children, all but two, Thomas and Jane, are living, as follows: Mary Spade, of Kinderhook; Eliza Kellogg, of Missouri; William, of Ohio; James, Mor-

ris, George and Phillip, of Indiana; and Samuel, of Kinderhook, Michigan. All have made homes for themselves and are well-to-do as regards this world's goods, and all have families of their own.

Samuel Waters was reared upon the farm and as the youngest child he lived at home during the life of his parents. He was married October 30, 1877, to Miss Elizabeth Grimm, a native of Steuben county, Indiana, where she was born January 24, 1855. Her father, William Grimm, was born in Stark county, Ohio, in June, 1832, and her mother, Mary A. Keller, was born in Randolph county, Ohio, in 1835. They removed to Steuben county, Indiana, in an early day and spent fifty years of their lives there, where the mother died December 12, 1903, and where the father still resides, at Fremont. They were the parents of four children, all of whom are living: Elizabeth Waters, wife of our subject, and Henry, Ellwood and George, all residents of Steuben county, Indiana.

The early married life of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Waters was spent in Fremont township, Steuben county, Indiana, but in 1888 Mr. Waters purchased his present farm in California township, Branch county, Michigan, which has since been their home. The farm at first contained one hundred and eighty-three acres, forty acres of which has since been sold, and it has been transformed into one of the comfortable farm homes of this section. Mr. Waters has cleared nearly thirty acres of the farm and has made many notable improvements in the way of building, etc., including one of the finest barns in the township, which is to be speedily followed by a residence of modern construction.

A son and a daughter have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Waters. Bert, the eldest, married Olive Powelson, and they have two daughters, Violet and Marian, their home adjoining that of their parents. The daughter, Linnie, resides at home.

Mr. Waters has been an industrious and intelligent farmer and success has crowned his efforts. He is a Prohibitionist in politics, although never a seeker after office. His interest in educational matters has led, however, to his selection as moderator of his school district for six years in succession, a position which he still holds. Mr. and Mrs. Waters are members of the Liberal United Brethren church and they stand high in the regard of the residents of this section.

EDWIN BOSWORTH CHURCH.

Representing a family of prominent connection with American life and affairs from the early colonial period to the present, Mr. Edwin B. Church, of Quincy, Michigan, has himself lived up to the best traditions of the Church ancestry and is one of the best known and most influential citizens of Branch county. Born in Bristol, Rhode Island, in 1844, he comes of truest New England stock, and on both his father and mother's sides is related to men of more than ordinary prominence in every-day life as well as public activity.

William Henry Church, his father, also born in Bristol, was a descend-

ant of Benjamin F. Church, whose participation in the Revolutionary war is a treasured part of the family annals. An earlier Church had been commissioned lieutenant of militia at Bristol by none less than His Majesty George the Third. The connection of the Church family with America began early in the seventeenth century, when they came from England and made settlement in the town of Bristol near Mt. Hope, Rhode Island. The prevailing occupation of the family in its various generations has been farming and stock-raising, William Henry being also a farmer. He received his education in private schools at Bristol and Providence, and became one of the largest landholders in the state of Rhode Island. He died at Bristol in 1898, aged eighty-three years. He had come west and been in Grand Rapids in the fifties, and visited his son at Quincy in 1870. He was a member and active worker in the Congregational church, in politics was a Republican of strong convictions but without aspirations for office, and being a man of quite remarkable executive ability and force of character he held a position of distinction in his community.

William H. Church married Susan M. Lincoln, who was born in Bristol in 1817, and died in 1876, in her fifty-ninth year. Her father was a farmer and a native of Connecticut. W. H. Church and wife had eleven children, namely: Sarah Ann is the wife of George Burt, a farmer at Raynham, Massachusetts; Susan Maria is the widow of James Herrendeen, in Washington, D. C.; William Albert resides on the old Rhode Island homestead where he was born. The fourth member of the family is Edwin B. Church. Henry Francis is a retired stock dealer in Providence, Rhode Island. Charles, the sixth, died in infancy. Emily Lincoln lives in Bristol. Clara Medora is the wife of Dr. William J. McCaw, of Providence. Alice Southworth, residing in Bristol, is the widow of George Easterbrook. Carrie Percis is a resident of Washington, D. C. Benjamin Bradford died at the age of fifteen.

Mr. Edwin B. Church spent his early life in the town of Bristol, was reared on a farm, learned its duties and before coming west farmed for his father. His education was received in the schools at Warren and Bristol. From farming he directed his attention to the trade of machinist, which he followed at Taunton, Massachusetts, and Providence. In the meantime, in 1862, he had responded to his country's call for soldiers, and, enlisting at Bristol in the Twelfth Rhode Island Infantry, Company E, he served nine months. He participated at Fredericksburg under Burnsides, and thence the regiment was ordered to Kentucky in pursuit of John Morgan, the Rebel leader. At the close of his term he was returned to Providence and mustered out.

Mr. Church has been a resident at Quincy and identified with its welfare since 1867, in the fall of which year he came from the east to permanently make his home in the Wolverine state. Opening a meat market in Quincy, he also bought and shipped stock with this village as his headquarters, and continued in that general line of business, especially in buying and shipping stock, for thirty odd years. His interests have been constantly expanding ever since his location here. About 1871 he bought a little farm

of ten acres in section sixteen of Quincy township, conducting this in connection with his other business, and since then he has added to his farm until it now contains almost two hundred acres. In 1880 he was one of the organizers of the First National Bank of Quincy, being at the present time the second of the original organizers living. He still retains his interest in the institution, being a director and also for the past ten years vice-president. In politics a Republican, he has often served on the village board, and is a member of the Baptist church of his town.

In 1870 Mr. Church married Adaline (Broughton) Burdick, widow of George W. Burdick. Mrs. Church was born in Quincy township, this county, three miles west of the town of Quincy, in 1836, and is one of the oldest living native-born residents. Her father, John Broughton, was a maker of history in this county, esteemed and highly honored both as a citizen and in private life. He was born in Rutland, Vermont, and died at the age of eighty-five years, in 1879. His ancestry was traced to three Broughton brothers who came from England in an early day and made settlement in Vermont. John Broughton was a farmer, having come to Michigan and settled at Quincy in 1835. For about a year he kept a tavern midway between Quincy and Coldwater, and thereafter was a resident of Quincy. He traded extensively in lands, investing heavily in government lands, and retained large amounts of it until his death. Quincy is partly built on two farms owned by him on the west side of the town, and he also had a farm on the east side, part of which has also become absorbed into the village. Although a farmer by stated occupation, he gave much of his time to real estate dealings. As a pioneer of the county he was identified with the formation of the village of Quincy, and was always ready to support, if he did not take the lead in any enterprise that meant the progress and substantial welfare of the town. The Quincy Methodist church honors him as one of its first and most actively influential members. When there was no church in town his house was the meeting place for the worshipers in that faith, and in fact the society was organized in his home. The site of the present church edifice was donated by him, and his interest and activity were constant factors in the religious and moral advancement of the town in his lifetime. In politics he was a stanch Republican from the organization of that party until his death. He married Elizabeth Wingert, a native of Pennsylvania and a daughter of Jacob Wingert, a tailor, who afterward lived in New York state. Mr. and Mrs. John Broughton were the parents of seven children, namely: Eleanor Eliza, now deceased, was the wife of William Chappell, an army officer; Adaline, the present wife of Mr. Church, and who by her first marriage had three children, George and John, both deceased, and Fannie Church Parsons, about whom there is further mention elsewhere; Sarah, John George, and William, an artist, all of whom are deceased; and Martha A. is the wife of Silas S. Daish, a retired grain dealer in Washington, D. C., and they have two children—John B., a prominent lawyer in Washington, national representative, and May E., who married Thornton Lockerson, an insurance man in Philadelphia. Mrs. Church is a

member of the Methodist church at Quincy. Mrs. Broughton died in 1893, aged ninety years.

William A. Church, a brother of Edwin B. Church, was also a member of Company E, Twelfth Rhode Island Infantry, and the brothers served throughout their term together, both being in the battle of Fredericksburg.

Mrs. Fannie Church Parsons, the daughter and only living child of Mrs. E. B. Church, has achieved a national reputation through her original methods of kindergarten musical instruction. She is the author of the Illustrated Music Study system and is at the head of the musical department in the National Normal School of Illustrated Music Study, the central studio of which institution is in the Fine Arts Building at Chicago. She has held this position the past four years, and is under contract for two years more. Her works were copyrighted in 1897, and her system is now in use in many Chicago schools as well as in many other cities and towns and in every state in the Union.

Mrs. Parsons' musical training was begun at the age of six years, and was continued under the best masters obtainable. Several years were spent under William Waldecker at Washington, followed by study at the New England Conservatory at Boston, where she had such eminent instructors as George Howard, Frank E. Morse, George Chadwick and W. F. Apthorp. Her work of teaching children, already begun, was continued in Michigan, and in those early years of her work she perfected the system by which her name has become so well known and by which she has contributed so much of value to musical education. In 1890 she married Rev. W. H. Parsons, for twenty-five years a member of the Methodist church in the Michigan conference, and now located at New Buffalo, that state. The three children born of their marriage are Anita Church Parsons, Adymae and Edwina. When her oldest daughter was five years old Mrs. Parsons, who in the meantime had discontinued active educational work, formed a class of children in order that Anita might have the advantage of the class lessons which had proved so beneficial to former pupils. From this beginning has grown the movement which has resulted in the establishment of many normal centers where her system of instruction may be acquired. She has written several text books, manuals, charts and other aids for the practical teaching of her methods, and, as already stated, her system is being introduced in numerous new centers every year and is constantly growing in favor among educators. Mrs. Parsons was reared by Mr. Church from seven years of age, and she thinks as much of him as her own father.

MARCELLUS HARRIS PARKER.

Marcellus Harris Parker, who, as an architect and builder was closely associated with the improvement of Coldwater through many years so that now various substantial and prominent buildings stand as monuments to his skill and enterprise, was born in Sutton, New Hampshire, November 18, 1821, while his death occurred in Coldwater, November 2, 1902. He left the parental home when eighteen years of age, removing to Rochester, New York, where he served an apprenticeship as an architect and builder. He

afterward went to Buffalo, New York, where he remained for a brief period and then became a resident of Vermilion, Ohio.

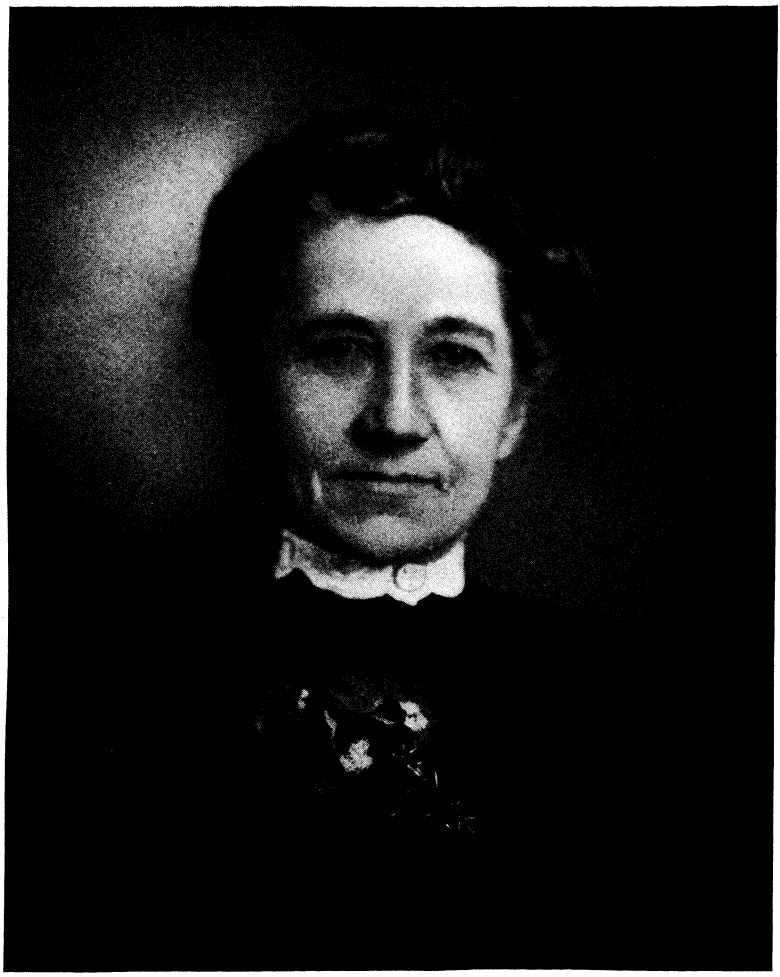
On the 18th of March, 1847, while in the Buckeye state, Mr. Parker was married to Miss Harriet M. Sage, who was born in Middletown, Connecticut, February 10, 1827, her parents being George and Lucy (Davis) Sage. They were also natives of Connecticut, whence they removed to Virginia and afterward to Ohio, where their last days were passed. Subsequent to their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Parker removed to Toledo, Ohio, and there resided for eighteen months, on the expiration of which period they took up their abode in Batavia, Michigan. In 1851 they became residents of Coldwater, where Mr. Parker resided until his life's labors were ended. Here as an architect and builder he contributed largely to the improvement and welfare of his adopted city. Many prominent buildings here were planned and constructed by him, including the public library and the court house. He always lived faithfully up to the terms of a contract and was thoroughly prompt and reliable in the execution of any work entrusted to him and because of his capability and honorable methods he enjoyed a liberal patronage. In his later years he retired with a comfortable competence to enjoy a well earned rest.

Mr. and Mrs. Parker became the parents of three children, but two died in childhood, the surviving daughter being Celia, now the wife of Dr. J. H. Woolley, a dentist of Chicago. There were no exciting chapters in the life history of Mr. Parker but he displayed a persistency of purpose and fidelity to honorable principles and a commendable and helpful interest in his fellowmen that made him one of the respected and representative residents of Coldwater, and when he passed away at the advanced age of eighty-one years his death was deeply regretted by many who knew and honored him. His widow still survives him and yet occupies the old home in Coldwater.

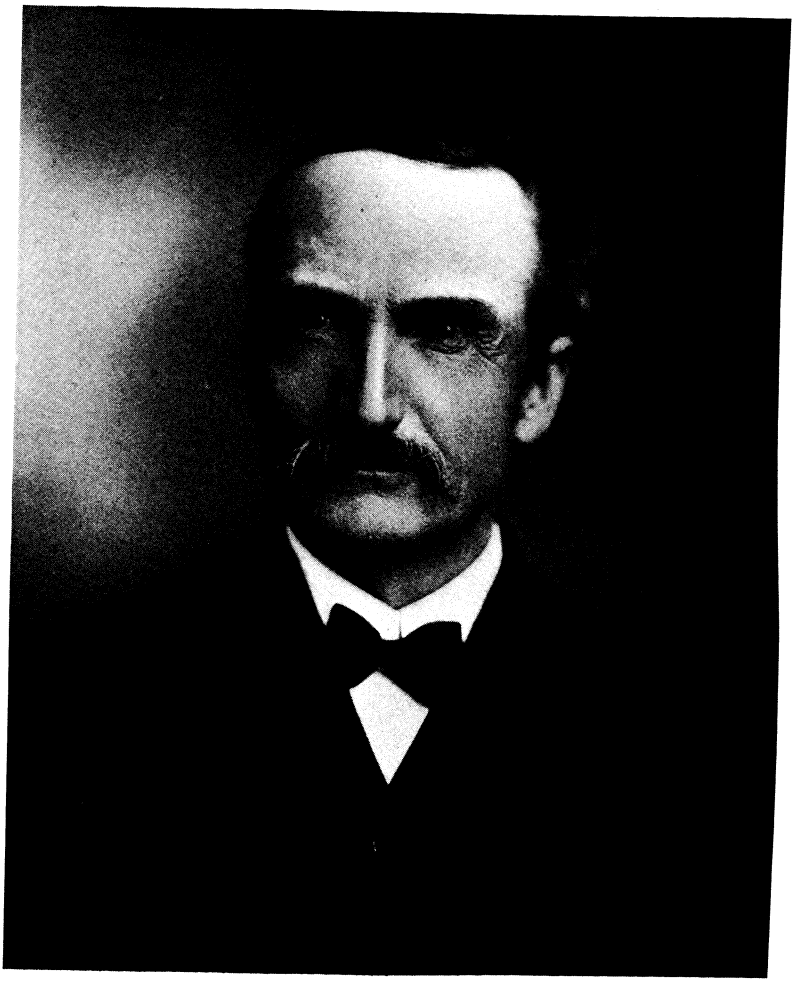
CHARLES TITUS CORNWELL.

Charles Titus Cornwell, who is now living retired in Coldwater, was born in Fulton county, New York, September 24, 1821, and has therefore passed the eighty-third milestone on life's journey. He is descended from Revolutionary stock. His paternal grandfather, Ashwell Cornwell, was one of three brothers who came from England to America and at the time of the Revolutionary war he espoused the cause of the colonists and aided in the struggle for independence, holding the rank of captain. His son and namesake Ashwell Cornwell, Jr., was born in Fulton county, New York, and in early life learned the trade of a tanner and currier and also that of shoe-making. He was one of four brothers, all of whom followed the same business pursuits. Having arrived at years of maturity he wedded Ann Warn, a native of Saratoga county, New York.

Charles T. Cornwell, the only representative of their family now living, was a lad of but eleven years when he left home and started out in the world for himself. He has since depended entirely upon his own labors and whatever success he has achieved is attributable alone to his untiring



Mrs Marshall F. Smith



Marshall F Smith

efforts. He first worked for his board on a farm for about three years and the first wage he received was twenty-one dollars for seven months' labor. He continued as a farm hand until about seventeen years of age, when he entered upon an apprenticeship for the carriage-maker's trade, serving for three years in Fulton county, New York. He then worked for a short time at piece work and about 1842 removed to Ralston, Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, where he began building cars for the mines. After remaining at that place for a year he returned to Fulton county, New York, where he resumed work at his trade. After spending some time as an employe in Galloway, New York, he went to Rexford Flats, New York, where he engaged in wagon making on his own account for about a year. While there he was married to Miss Alma Lefferts and went to Troy, New York, where he worked at the cabinet-maker's trade, spending about a year and a half or two years in that place. He next settled at Schenectady, New York, where he engaged in building railroad cars. In the meantime he had learned photography and while in Schenectady he established a studio and carried on business for about two years. In 1849 he came to Coldwater and in 1850 built the house that he now occupies. Here he worked at cabinet making and also followed the profession of photography. He traveled all over the county in an early day and was in St. Louis during the Civil war. His attention, however, has been principally given to photography and he has carried on business in Coldwater as a representative of this art for about thirty years, being the pioneer photographer in this part of the state. He is an expert in daguerreotype work and has a fine selection of pictures taken over a half century ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Cornwell have one son, Charles S., who is now a resident of Chicago. The wife and mother died May 8, 1904, and Mr. Cornwell has since lived alone. His early political support was given to the Whig party and since its dissolution he has joined the ranks of the Republican party, which he has now supported for about half a century. He voted for Henry Clay in the early days and has since cast his ballot in support of each Republican nominee. Mr. Cornwell is a gentleman of personal worth, of kindly spirit, deference for the opinions of others, unfailing courtesy and innate affability. In the long years of his residence in Michigan he has ever enjoyed the regard and trust of his fellowmen and is today one of the venerable citizens of Coldwater, honored by all who know him.

MARSHALL F. SMITH.

Marshall F. Smith is a representative of one of the pioneer families of Branch county and has for more than a half century lived within its borders, so that he is familiar with its history, having watched its development through five decades. He was born in Noble township September 26, 1853. His father, Walter W. Smith, was a native of Vermont, born February 21, 1810, while the mother, who bore the maiden name of Sarah Warren, was born December 26, 1813. In the year 1840 Walter W. Smith came to the west, settling at Niles, Michigan, where he worked at the carpenter's trade for two

years, having learned that business while in New England. Land was cheap and could be had almost for the asking, as there were many tracts still in possession of the government. He therefore secured a claim in 1842, entering one hundred and sixty acres on section ten, Noble township. Not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made on the place, the tract presenting the appearance only of nature's handiwork. Mr. Smith did not at once commence farming, but for four or five years thereafter continued carpentering. He then took up his abode upon his land, which is now known as the David Ward farm. He afterward bought forty acres on the same section, so that his place comprised two hundred acres. This he partially improved, hiring a man to break the land, after which he would plant and cultivate his crops. He carried on general farming for a number of years, meeting with creditable success in his work. Here he reared his family of four children, namely: George W., who was born in 1841 and was killed at Jefferson, Texas, on the 4th of October, 1868; Edward, who died May 18, 1888; Emily, who was born June 2, 1846, and died April 5, 1870; and Marshall F., who is now the only survivor of the family.

In the district schools Marshall F. Smith acquired his education, and upon the home farm he was reared, early beginning labor in the fields. As soon as old enough to reach the plow handles he took his place in the fields, and when not busy with the duties of the school room he assisted in cultivating and improving his father's land. In 1887 he purchased the home farm, his father having died on the 4th of January of that year. A few months later, however, he sold this property to his brother Edward and purchased the Robinson farm of three hundred and thirty acres on sections fourteen and fifteen, Noble township. Later he sold forty acres of this, so that he retained possession of a tract of two hundred and ninety acres. He then removed to that farm and made it his home continuously until 1899. He carried on general agricultural pursuits and also fed cattle and sheep, both branches of his business proving profitable; but after cultivating his place for a number of years he rented his farm and removed to the town, where he is now living retired.

On the 24th of December, 1871, Mr. Smith was married to Miss Hattie Boyer, a daughter of Andrew and Margaret Boyer of Noble township. Mrs. Smith was born in the state of New York September 17, 1852, and came with her family to Michigan about 1855. In his political views Mr. Smith is an earnest Republican, keeping well informed on the questions and issues of the day, and for several years he served on the school board. He has long been a witness of the events that have occurred in Branch county that have left their impress upon the annals of this part of the state. He has seen wild lands transformed into fine farms dotted with substantial buildings, while here and there a church and school house indicate the advance of civilization, while towns and cities have become imbued with commercial and industrial life and activity. He rejoices in what has been accomplished in this part of the state, and has always been the champion of movements that he deemed of benefit to his community.

CHARLES HAMILTON.

Charles Hamilton, carrying on general farming on a tract of eighty-five acres on section fifteen, Bronson township, was born in Dublin, New Hampshire, December 10, 1837, his parents being Charles A. and Susan (Perry) Hamilton. The family was established in Massachusetts at an early day. The father was a carpenter and shoemaker by trade and in connection with those pursuits he followed the occupation of farming. He lived in the east until after the close of the Civil war, when he came to Michigan, settling in Bronson township, Branch county, where he subsequently purchased forty acres of land on section fifteen, lying on the Chicago Pike and known as the old French Tavern place. Here he carried on farming until 1867, when he went to Missouri and purchased a tract of land, but not finding this all he desired he returned to Michigan. Here he worked at his trade and also on the farm but later he returned to the east, where his last days were passed, his death occurring in 1887, while his wife died January 3, 1899. In their family were four children, of whom Charles is the eldest. His living brother is Horace, while Oliver died in 1865 at the age of twelve years. Edwin was killed in Brookfield, Missouri, in 1871.

Charles Hamilton was a student in the schools of New Hampshire in his early boyhood days and afterward went to college in Westminster, Vermont. He completed his education, however, in Townsend, Vermont, where he pursued a course in civil engineering, leaving school at the age of twenty years. In 1858 he arrived in Branch county, Michigan, and engaged in teaching school in Bronson, also working on the farm for a year. He continued as a teacher until 1861, after which he responded to the country's call for troops, enlisting in Company K, Seventh Michigan Infantry, for three years. He was with the army of the Potomac and participated in many important battles that led to the ultimate triumph of the Union armies. He was wounded in the head at the battle of Fair Oaks and was reported as dead, but eventually he received care for his injuries and recovered. Having served for three years he re-enlisted as a veteran in 1864, becoming a member of the Ninth Vermont Infantry, with which he remained for a year, when in 1865 he received an honorable discharge. He was a brave and loyal soldier, who made a creditable record on the battlefields of the south and with the triumphs of war he returned to his home.

Mr. Hamilton resumed school teaching in 1865 and for a time was principal of the schools of Burr Oak, Michigan. Later he went to Missouri, where he followed the same profession, being principal of a school there for a several years. As an educator he was capable, zealous and progressive and the schools under his guidance made substantial progress. In September, 1874, he returned to Michigan, settling upon his father's farm and in addition to school teaching he followed the profession of surveying. In 1882 he was elected county surveyor, which position he held for a number of terms and to which he was re-elected in 1900. His long service in that office is indicative of his capability, fidelity and promptness and also of the confidence and trust reposed in him.

On January 16, 1862, Mr. Hamilton was married to Miss Lucretia R. Rugg, of Londonderry, Vermont, and unto them have been born four children: Mabel F., at home; Myrtle E., who became the wife of George Cook of Burr Oak, Michigan, and died October 1, 1897; Nellie E., at home; and Lucretia R., the wife of C. M. Norton, who is living on the old homestead and superintends the farm work, and they have a little son, Wilbur Hamilton. The family home comprises a farm of eighty-five acres on section fifteen, Bronson township, and this returns to Mr. Hamilton a good income each year. He has a comfortable residence and good outbuildings, including two barns, one thirty-six by fifty feet and the other twenty-four by twenty-six feet. Mr. Hamilton has erected nearly all of these buildings and has made his place a model farm of the twentieth century, equipping it with all modern conveniences and the latest improved machinery. This was once the site of the old French tavern and was a stage station on the route between Chicago and Detroit. His land is nearly all under cultivation and he carries on general farming, feeding all of his grain to his stock. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party and for one year, 1888, he served on the county drainage commission. He is also a school director and has ever manifested a deep and helpful interest in educational affairs in this part of the state, while his own labors as a teacher have proved effective in raising the standard of schools and promoting their efficiency.

Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton have one of the old spinning wheels which was his mother's, which is close to a century old. He has also two volumes of Moore's Universal Geography and Astronomy, one of the first editions published in 1819, also an old fashioned singing book which is much over a century old, using the long "S," and it was the property of Early Percy of Old England. This book was brought across the Atlantic. Mrs. Hamilton has a double coverlet which was woven by her grandmother. Her great-grandfather, Peter Putnam, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, which entitles the members of her family to become members of the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution.

EDWARD C. LOCKWOOD.

Edward C. Lockwood, whose farm on section six, Ovid township, indicates in its attractive and well kept appearance the spirit of enterprise and progress which dominates the owner, has here one hundred and seventeen acres of land that is arable and productive, owing to the careful cultivation which he has placed upon it. The buildings, too, are commodious and substantial and everything about the farm shows care and painstaking supervision. It was upon this place that Edward C. Lockwood first opened his eyes to the light of day on the 12th of December, 1857, a son of Henry and Lydia (Jordan) Lockwood.

Edward C. Lockwood, reared to the occupation of the farm, was educated in the district schools and in the high school of Coldwater, in which he spent one year as a student. After putting aside his text-books his undivided attention was given to agricultural pursuits and he soon learned the best methods of tilling the fields, planting crops and caring for the harvests.

Wishing to establish a home of his own he secured as a companion and helpmate on life's journey Miss Mary E. Lockwood, to whom he was married on the 31st of October, 1879. She was born in Wyoming county, New York, October 31, 1858, and is a daughter of Rufus and Sarah (Mead) Lockwood, of Coldwater, Michigan, who were early settlers of Branch county, coming to the west when their daughter was a little maiden of seven summers. The family home was established first in Coldwater township upon a farm of about one hundred acres of land and there Mrs. Lockwood of this review spent her girlhood days, while in the Coldwater high school of the city she acquainted herself with the branches of learning commonly taught in such institutions and graduated in the class of 1887. Unto our subject and his wife have been born three children: Laura, who was born January 19, 1881; Bertha, who was born May 21, 1883, and is the wife of Luther E. Russell, a farmer of Ovid township; and Florence, whose birth occurred June 7, 1896. All were born on what is known as the old Lockwood homestead, where the parents yet reside with their eldest and youngest daughters. Mr. Lockwood here owns and operates one hundred and seventeen acres of land, having a well equipped property, the value of which has been enhanced through the excellent improvement that he has placed upon it and by the careful cultivation of his fields. He annually harvests good crops and on the market finds a ready sale for his products, so that each year adds to his income.

When age gave to Mr. Lockwood the right of franchise he cast his first ballot for the men and measures of the Republican party and since that time he has never wavered in his allegiance to its principles, believing that it contains the best elements of good government. He is recognized as an active, capable and effective worker in the local ranks of his party, and that he has the entire trust and good will of his fellow townsmen is shown by the fact that he has been retained in the office of justice of the peace for eighteen years—a fact which also stands in uncontrovertible evidence of a capable service unmarked by fear or favor in his judicial opinions, which, on the contrary, are ever characterized by fairness and impartiality.

HECTOR McLEAN.

Hector McLean is numbered among the pioneer residents of Branch county and in his farming operations in Matteson township is meeting with a creditable measure of success. Numbered among the native sons of New York, he was born in Broome county on the 16th of August, 1831. His father, Charles McLean, was a farmer by occupation. He, too, was a native of New York, born in Schenectady, and there he was reared and married, the lady of his choice being Miss Rachel Buys, who was born in Pennsylvania. In their family were nine children, of whom Hector McLean is the fourth in order of birth. In the year 1845 the father came with his family to Michigan, settling in Matteson township, Branch county, on the farm which is now the home of our subject. Here he purchased eighty acres of land, the greater part of which was raw and unimproved, but he was not long permitted to enjoy his new home, for his death occurred soon after his arrival.

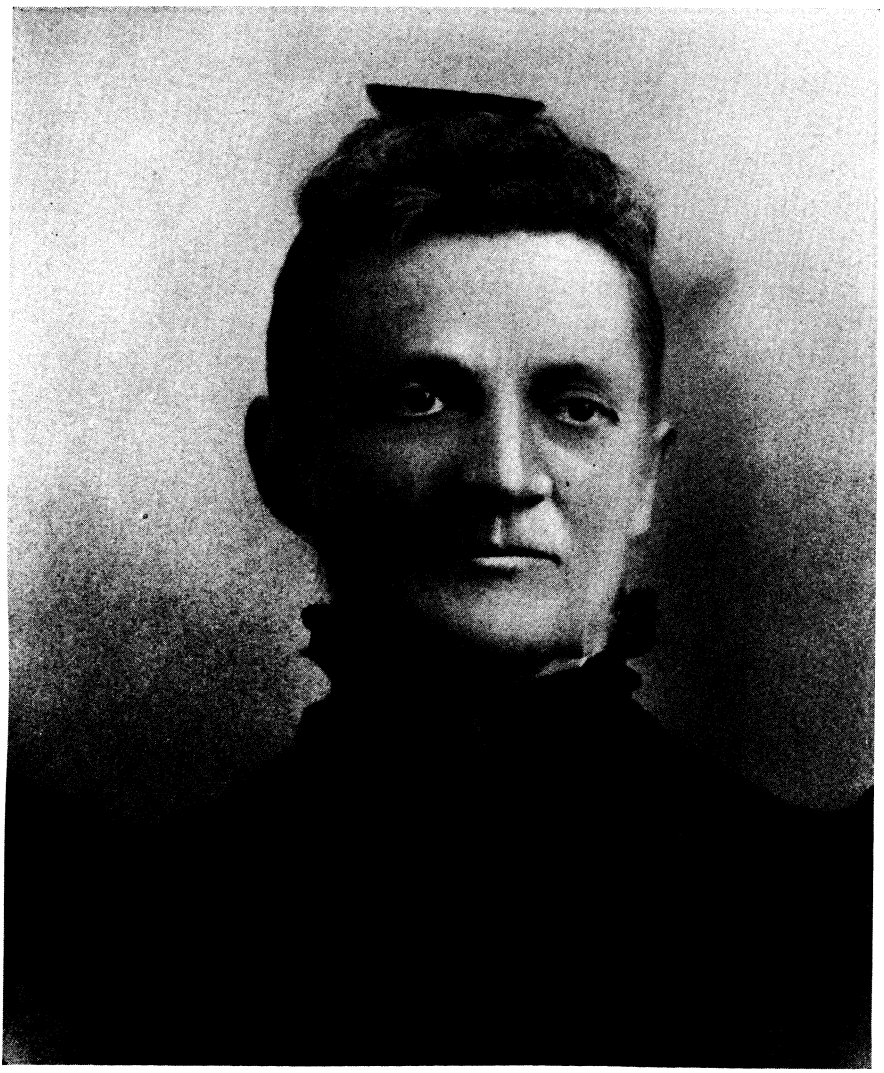
Hector McLean and his brother, who were living here at the time, took up the arduous task of clearing the farm and our subject was finally left the sole possessor of the property, which he continued to clear and cultivate. The splendid appearance of the place is due to his energies, keen business discrimination and practical methods. He now has eighty acres of land, the greater part of which has been transformed into productive fields and yields to him good harvests annually. The place is attractive in its appearance, owing to the care and labor he has bestowed upon it, and he is justly accounted one of the progressive agriculturists of the community.

In 1871 occurred the marriage of Hector McLean and Miss Mary E. Anderson, a native of Steuben county, Indiana, born on April 12, 1842. She is a daughter of William and Elizabeth Anderson and her father was a native of Lo Maine, and the mother of the city of Aberdeen, Scotland. Mrs. McLean was brought to Branch county when only four years of age and her education was acquired in the district schools of Bronson. Unto Mr. and Mrs. McLean was born one son, who died in infancy. They are people of genuine worth, occupying an enviable position in public regard, and the cordial and generous hospitality of their pleasant home is greatly enjoyed by their many friends.

When age gave to Mr. McLean the right of franchise he became a supporter of Republican candidates and principles, but now he is known as a Prohibitionist, although he is somewhat independent in his political affiliation, supporting the man rather than the party. Matters of local progress are always of interest to him and his co-operation can be counted upon to further measures for the general good. He is a member of the Grange at Colon, Michigan, and is well known in the county where much of his life has been passed, for he was but fourteen years of age when he arrived in Michigan. He has therefore lived in this county for six decades and has witnessed almost its entire development and progress. As the years have gone by changes have occurred that have transformed an unbroken timber region or wild prairie land into productive fields in the midst of which are found substantial homes, while here and there churches have been built and towns have sprung up containing all of the industrial and commercial interests known to the older east. His work has been entirely along agricultural lines and a life of enterprise and carefully directed labor has resulted in making him a prosperous citizen.

WILLIAM C. SORTER.

William C. Sorter is numbered among the pioneer residents of Branch county, where he is devoting his energies to agricultural pursuits with good results, making his home on section twenty-eight, Ovid township, where he has a valuable farm. His birth occurred in Steuben county, New York, on the 3d of January, 1837, his parents being Jacob and Hannah (Clark) Sorter, both of whom were natives of the same county. The paternal grandparents removed to New Jersey from the Empire state and there Jacob Sorter was reared and educated. He chose as a companion and helpmate for life's journey Miss Hannah Clark, who also spent her childhood in that locality. In



Mrs William Sorter



William C Sorter

pioneer times they came westward to Branch county, arriving in Michigan in 1838, at which time they settled in Ovid township upon a farm of forty acres. All around was the forest and it was only here and there that a settler had made a little clearing and begun the development of a farm. Mr. Sorter cut away the trees, plowed the land and tilled the fields and in due course of time had his entire farm under cultivation. He lived upon that place for three years and a half and then purchased what has since been known as the Sorter farm. He purchased forty acres and then entered eighty acres of land from the government, buying the remainder from other parties. The place comprises two hundred and sixty acres of land, the greater part of which is under cultivation. Mr. Sorter bought and sold various farms in the county and capably conducted his business interests with the result that as the years passed he acquired a handsome competence. In politics he was always earnest and active in support of the principles of Democracy, and he did everything in his power to promote the growth and insure the success of his party. His death occurred in 1882, when he was eighty years of age, and thus passed away one of the honored pioneer residents of this section of Michigan. In the family were eight children, three of whom were born in New York, while five were born in Branch county. All were sons, and the eldest died in infancy. The others were George, William, Henry, Andrew, James, Delevan and David.

William Sorter of this review was only about a year and half old when brought by his parents to Branch county, so that he was reared amid the wild scenes of frontier life. At the usual age he entered the district school near his father's home. The school house was built of logs and was furnished in primitive manner, and the curriculum embraced but a few branches of study. He made good use of his opportunities, however, and in the school of experience has learned many valuable lessons as the years have gone by. In 1864 Mr. Sorter was united in marriage to Miss Harriet Strong, a daughter of Calvin Strong, a pioneer of Branch county and a farmer by occupation. He also followed mechanical pursuits, possessing considerable ingenuity in that direction. Mrs. Sorter is a native daughter of Coldwater township and there her girlhood days were passed. She has been to her husband a faithful companion and helpmate on life's journey. Their beautiful country residence and outbuildings are most attractive to the passer-by. It is beautifully located and one of the most attractive residences in the township. Mr. and Mrs. Sorter have two of the old parchment deeds, one bearing the signature of President Martin Van Buren and dated October 10, 1840, and the other signed by President James K. Polk and bears the date June 1, 1848. These are valuable souvenirs in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sorter.

In his political views Mr. Sorter is a Republican and has ever kept well informed on the questions and issues of the day. He regards it the duty as well as the privilege of every American to cast his ballot in support of principles in which he believes and which he deems will prove of greatest good to county, state or nation. He served as township treasurer for one year and he has been chosen as administrator of many estates—which fact indicates that his fellow-townsmen have had trust in him. Fraternally he is

connected with the Masonic lodge at Coldwater and he and wife are members of the Methodist church at Kinderhook. He looks at life from a practical standpoint, for there is nothing narrow or contracted in his nature, and throughout the county he is widely known and highly respected, justly meriting the esteem which is given him and which is ever a public recognition of genuine personal worth.

FRED OLDS.

Fred Olds follows the occupation of farming on section twenty-three, Union township, and is numbered among the pioneer settlers of Branch county. His memory embraces the period of early development here when the land was wild and the work of improvement seemed scarcely begun. He was born in Batavia township, Genesee county, New York, June 8, 1831. His father, William Olds, was a native of Vermont and a brother of Joseph Olds, who after residing for some time in New York continued his westward way to Branch county, Michigan, where he arrived in 1836. Few, indeed, were the settlers living in this part of the state and he was the third man to locate on Battle Creek road, extending from Hodunk to Union City. He was of English descent and traced his ancestry back to one of three brothers who came from England to America at an early period in the colonization of the new world.

William Olds, father of our subject, on leaving Vermont became a resident of Genesee county, New York. He was a farmer by occupation and always followed that pursuit in order to provide for his family. He came to Branch county in 1839, settling in Union township, where he secured a tract of land and opened up an excellent farm. The implements in use at that time were very crude as compared to the modern farm machinery and necessitated much manual labor which does not fall to the lot of the farmer at the present day but he persisted in his work of improving his property, which in due course of time became valuable owing to the cultivation he had bestowed upon it. He lived to the very advanced age of seventy-nine years but his wife, who bore the maiden name of Sarah Palmer and was a native of Genesee county, New York, lived to be only fifty years of age. They were the parents of seven children, two sons and five daughters, all of whom reached adult age.

Fred Olds, the eldest son and third member of the family, was a youth of eight years when he came to Branch county, the family home being established in Union township. In the winter months when the weather was not too severe he made his way to the little log school house and in fact he assisted in its construction. He there conned his lessons, sitting on a rude slab bench. In the summer months, however, he had no opportunity of attending school but remained at home, assisting in clearing the farm and preparing the fields for cultivation. He aided in the operation of his father's land until twenty-three years of age, when he was married in 1857 to Miss Harriet Wilson, a daughter of Peter Wilson. The young couple took up their abode in a little log shanty standing on a half acre of land. Mr. Olds has since lived in this place, although the pioneer cabin has long since

been replaced by a more commodious and modern residence and his farm has been extended until it now comprises two hundred acres of rich and productive land. He has traveled considerably, visiting San Francisco in 1874, also going to the Atlantic coast, when he visited Virginia. He has gone to other places and has thus gained considerable knowledge of his native country. His travel has been made possible through his earnest labor and he has become a prosperous agriculturist.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Olds were born three children: William, Libbie, the wife of Lewis Adolph; and Maud, at home. Mr. Olds is a stalwart Republican and has assisted in electing each Republican president since the organization of the party. He belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church and his Christian faith has been a permeating influence in his honorable life. He has lived in Branch county for two-thirds of a century and few of its settlers today were here at the time of his arrival. He has been an interested witness of the changes which have occurred, assisting as he could in its development and today he is numbered among its respected pioneers, having planned and accomplished a successful business career, while at the same time faithfully performing his duties of citizenship.

SAMUEL I. TREAT.

Long, active and honorable connection with business interests of Coldwater well entitles Samuel I. Treat to mention with the representative citizens of Branch county. He was born in Ovid township, this county, August 19, 1840. His father, Samuel M. Treat, was a native of New York and came to Branch county about 1838, settling in Ovid township, where he took up land from the government. It was wild and unimproved but he at once began its cultivation and in the course of time developed a productive farm, which he continued to make his home until his death at the age of seventy-four years. He married Fannie Ives, a native of New York, who died when their son Samuel was only three weeks old. The babe was then taken to the home of his grandparents, with whom he remained until seven years of age, when his father married again and he returned to the old homestead farm. He acquired his education in the common schools, attending for about three months in the winter seasons, while in the summer he aided in the work of the farm, assisting in plowing, planting and cultivating. He continued to aid his father until twenty-one years of age, when he started out in life on his own account, working by the month as a farm hand.

Samuel I. Treat was thus engaged until 1862, when, feeling that his first duty was to his country, he enlisted in the One Hundredth Illinois Infantry as a private, serving for more than nine months, after which he received an honorable discharge and returned to Adrian, Michigan. He remained a resident of that place for about two years, after which he came to Coldwater and he has since followed farming and also dealt in hides, pelts, tallow, furs, junk, salt and fertilizers, carrying on this business for about thirty-five years. He also renders tallow and grease, having a large slaughtering and rendering plant upon his farm, which is situated just outside the city limits of Coldwater and comprises one hundred and twenty acres.

Mr. Treat was married to Miss Helen Armstrong, and unto them were born two sons and a daughter, but the latter died in infancy. The sons, Frank and Vernon, are both associated with their father in business. Mr. Treat has always been a Republican since casting his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln in 1860. He keeps well informed on the questions that divide the two great parties and is thus able to support his position by intelligent argument. He now belongs to Butterworth Post, No. 109, G. A. R., of Coldwater, and is interested in his comrades of the Civil war, spending many pleasant hours in recalling the scenes that occurred on the battlefields of the south. He is equally loyal to his country in days of peace and during the sixty-five years of his residence in this county he has been the champion of all movements tending toward the material, intellectual, social and moral development of his locality. He has lived sixty-five years without the use of liquor or tobacco.

Frank W. Treat, the elder son of Samuel I. Treat, was born in Ovid township, July 31, 1869, and is indebted to the public school system of Coldwater for the educational privileges he has enjoyed. In 1888 he went to New York City, where he entered the employ of J. P. Felt, where he spent two years as a clerk, and then for three years was in the employ of George F. Cram, the well known publisher. On the expiration of that period he returned to Coldwater, in 1893, and entered into partnership with his father. They have since conducted a prosperous business, making large sales annually, so that a good financial return is secured upon their investment and as the result of their labors and business force. In 1902 Frank Treat was married to Miss Dora Gripman, a daughter of Lindley H. and Jane (Ferguson) Gripman. They have three children, a son and two daughters: F. Lesley, Helen Jane, and Jessie L. Frank Treat is now serving as alderman of the first ward of Coldwater and is a staunch Republican. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and in social, business and political relations occupies a prominent position in his city, while his personal worth entitles him to the regard in which he is uniformly held.

Vernon I. Treat, the younger son of Samuel I. Treat, was born in Coldwater, January 3, 1875, and after acquiring his education in the public schools responded to his country's call for troops, enlisting as a private of the First Illinois Volunteer Infantry in the Spanish-American war. He went with that regiment to Cuba, participated in the battle of Santiago, returned with his command to Montauk Point, Long Island, and thence to Chicago, where he received an honorable discharge. In 1900, however, he re-enlisted as a member of Company L, Thirtieth United States Regulars, and was promoted to corporal. He was also made quartermaster sergeant of his company, with which he went to the Philippines, remaining there for nineteen months in active service. He was with the army altogether for twenty-two months and was discharged with the rank of quartermaster sergeant at San Francisco, California, returning to his home on the 3rd of April, 1901. He made a creditable military record and is now numbered with the veterans of recent years who have shown that in her military prowess the United States deserves to rank with the great powers of the

world. Following his return Vernon Treat began traveling for a Chicago house, buying hides in Wisconsin, Minnesota and the northwest until April, 1904. He then returned to his home and has been active in the management of the business here, associated with his father and brother. He was married in 1904 to Miss Catherine Stowe, a daughter of Granville Stowe. He belongs to the Spanish-American War Association and to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Coldwater. The family has long been prominent socially in this city, and father and sons are known as reliable, enterprising business men.

FRED P. FRY.

Fred P. Fry, a prominent farmer of Batavia township, living on section two, is one of Michigan's native sons, and the spirit of enterprise which has dominated this state in its upbuilding and development has been manifest in this native son of Michigan. His birth occurred in Burr Oak, January 3, 1858, his parents being Charles U. and Catherine (Wagner) Fry, both natives of Pennsylvania. The father was born in Union county, that state, and when a young man came to Michigan, being married in St. Joseph county to Miss Wagner, who was born in 1837 and came to the west at an early age. Mr. Fry was a blacksmith by trade and he also followed farming. On leaving his native state he settled first in Millgrove township, Steuben county, Indiana, and afterward came to Branch county, living on section one, Batavia township, where his death occurred when he was about fifty-eight years of age. His wife passed away in 1903. In their family were eight children, three daughters and five sons, all of whom reached mature years but one. Fred P. Fry was about three years old when he went to Indiana, where he remained until sixteen years of age, there attending the district schools. He then came to Branch county and with his father settled on section one, Batavia township, aiding in the arduous task of developing and improving a farm. On the 3rd of January, 1883, he was married to Miss Anna M. Graf, a daughter of Gustave and Magdalena (Piltz) Graf, both of whom were born in Germany. On coming to America the father settled in Auburn, New York, and the mother came to Coldwater, Michigan, when a young woman. They were married in that city and then returned to Auburn, New York, but afterward came to Branch county in the spring of 1862. Mrs. Fry was born in Auburn, New York, August 4, 1861, and was but an infant when brought by her parents to Michigan.

The young couple began their domestic life upon a rented farm in Batavia township, where they remained for a year, and one year was also spent at Eaton Rapids, Michigan, in the hotel business. In 1885 Mr. Fry purchased his present farm and took up his abode in a little log house, but this has since been replaced by a modern frame residence. The farm comprises eighty acres and is well tilled, owing to the care and labor which Mr. Fry has bestowed upon the place and the diligence and energy which he manifests in all of his farm work. Unto him and his wife has been born a daughter, Florence, who at the age of sixteen years is attending school in the eighth grade, and is also taking music. Matters of local progress and

national advancement are causes dear to his heart and he has co-operated in many movements for the general good. In his political views he is a Republican, and he belongs to the Grange and to the Knights of the Maccabees. His wife and daughter are also members of the Grange. Mr. Fry is a lover of fine stock, of the Red Duroc breed.

OLIVER MORRILL.

Oliver Morrill, whose name appears on the roll of old settlers in Branch county where he is now following farming, his home being on section twenty-two, Union township, is a native son of Vermont. He was born there December 1, 1826. His father, Jeremiah Morrill, was also born in the Green Mountain state, and he came to Branch county, Michigan, in 1835. One can imagine the state at that time an almost unbroken wilderness, the forests stretching away for miles to the north. The harbors had not been improved and there was little evidence of a growing civilization. The wild woods furnished excellent opportunity for the trapper, and it was thus that Jeremiah Morrill largely earned his livelihood and provided for his family. He married Rosamond Bryant, also a native of Vermont, and both died when about seventy-five years of age.

Oliver Morrill, the eldest of their three sons, was a lad of about nine years when brought by his parents to the pioneer west. They lived for a time at Adrian, Michigan, spending about two years there, after which they took up their abode in Union township, Branch county, where Mr. Morrill obtained his education in the district schools. He was about twenty-one years of age when he began learning the moulder's trade at Union City, and he followed that pursuit for fifteen years. Later he returned to the farm and has since devoted his energies to agricultural pursuits.

It was in the same year that he was married, having been joined in wedlock in 1861 to Miss Emily Lake. They have one daughter, Eva, now the wife of Wilbur Warren. They also lost three children.

Mr. Morrill's farm comprises eighty acres of land, which is well improved with modern equipments. He has led a busy and useful life, carrying on general agricultural pursuits for forty-four years. He has also been identified with the development of the county, aiding in many practical ways in its growth and improvement. He has always favored good roads, good schools and the general progressive development, and in local offices has proved his loyalty to the community. His vote has long been cast for the men and measures of the Republican party, and he is a man always true to his honest convictions. He needs no special introduction to the readers of this volume, having so long resided here, but no history of the community would be complete without mention of this pioneer settler.

ALBERT A. DORRANCE.

Albert A. Dorrance, who is now living a retired life in Coldwater, has been connected with various business and public interests which have had direct bearing upon shaping the policy and molding the history of Branch



A. A. Dorrance

county. He is descended from French ancestry and the name was originally spelled D'Orrance. The ancestors of a less remote period, however, came from Scotland. The great-grandfather, Rev. Samuel Dorrance, was a native of that country and a graduate of Dumbarton College. He became a minister of the Gospel and for fifty years was pastor of a church in Windham county, Connecticut. His son, Samuel Dorrance, was a soldier of the Revolutionary war and acted as clerk of his company. He was born in Connecticut and was closely identified with the colonial history of his locality and with the early events of the republic. His son, George Dorrance, was born in Massachusetts, whence he removed to Providence, Rhode Island. He became a captain in the war of 1812, his commission being issued by Governor Elbridge Gerry, of Massachusetts, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. George Dorrance was married to Miss Ann Olney Warner, who was probably a native of Rhode Island. She died when her son Albert was about six years of age, and the father passed away about six years later.

Albert A. Dorrance is a native of Albion, Orleans county, New York, his birth having occurred at the family home on the Erie canal, September 8, 1827. He was the ninth in a family of eleven children, and on being left an orphan at the age of twelve years he started out to make his own way in the world, working at any employment which he could secure. He attended school as opportunity offered and at different times was employed in a printing office, in a jewelry store and in a drug store at Albion and Rochester. Realizing the value and need of an education he became a student in Brockport Collegiate Institute. His thoughtful consideration of life, its needs and its possibilities were early manifest and indicated the development of a strong character.

Thinking that he might have better business opportunities in the west Mr. Dorrance came to Michigan in 1848, locating first in Detroit, where for a brief period he was employed in a newspaper office. He was also western correspondent for the New York Tribune, at that time published by Horace Greeley, with whom he was personally acquainted, having been in his employ in the east. From Detroit he went to Jackson, Michigan, where he established the Jackson Citizen, a newspaper which is yet published, being at the present time the property of Hon. James O'Donnell. Mr. Dorrance continued the publication of the Citizen for about a year, after which he went to Washington, D. C., to accept an appointment under President Fillmore. He did not tarry long in the capital, however, but returned to the New England states and also went to Albion, New York, the place of his nativity. There in the year 1851 he was united in marriage to Miss Juliet S. Gregory and the following year returned with his wife to Jackson, Michigan.

On again taking up his abode in that city Mr. Dorrance established a drug store, but after a year accepted a position at the state prison, serving in that capacity for ten years. He came to Coldwater in the spring of 1868 and again engaged in the drug business, establishing the store which is now conducted by his son. He has also filled various public offices during his residence here. He was for four years postmaster under President Harrison, and during that period established the free delivery system. A member of the board of edu-

cation for fifteen years, he acted for some time as its president and did effective service in behalf of the public school system of the city. He was also president of the board of electric lights and water works; also the first president of the board of public works. He retired from active business about 1902 or 1903 and has since enjoyed a well merited rest. Although now well advanced in years, having passed the seventy-eighth milestone on life's journey, in spirit and interests he seems yet in his prime and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day. He was one of the organizers of the Republican party at Jackson, Michigan, in the year 1854 and since that time has been active in its ranks. His first presidential vote was cast for Zachary Taylor, and he also supported Fillmore. He then cast a ballot for John C. Fremont in 1856 and has never wavered in his allegiance to the Republican party from that time to the present. He was a delegate to the national convention which nominated President William McKinley at St. Louis, and also to the one which nominated Theodore Roosevelt for the vice-presidency at Philadelphia. In the winter of 1848-9 he was foreman of the state printing at Lansing, Michigan. He was one of the promoters of the Battle Creek and Coldwater electric line, assisting in securing the right-of-way, and his efforts have been of material benefit in promoting public progress and improvement in the state along many lines. He has been a member of the Presbyterian church for about forty years and has held membership relations with the Masonic fraternity for a half century, joining the order in Jackson, Michigan. He attained the Knight Templar degree, is a past eminent commander of the Commandery and also a member of the Grand Commandery of the State of Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Dorrance became the parents of a daughter and two sons: Mary J., the wife of W. S. Hawley; Ralph G., who is engaged in the drug business in Chicago; and Albert J., who is a druggist of Coldwater. In the evening of life Mr. Dorrance is now living retired and well merits the rest that is vouchsafed to him, for his has been an active, useful and honorable career. His name is closely associated with many events of importance, especially during the earlier epoch in the history of the commonwealth, and at all times his course has been actuated by honorable principles and untiring devotion to the general good.

CLARENCE C. JONES.

Clarence C. Jones, since 1899 connected with the Wolverine Portland Cement Company at Quincy, is a native son of this city, born in 1870. His father, John H. Jones, was born in the state of New York and in early manhood followed the occupation of farming, but afterward turned his attention to merchandising. He came to Michigan in 1854, settling on a farm in Branch county in Quincy township. He then carried on general agricultural pursuits with good success until 1884, when he took up his abode in Quincy, where he engaged in buying and selling live stock and wool, continuing in that department of business activity up to the time of his death. He was industrious and skillful as a farmer and in commercial

pursuits was enterprising and sagacious, accumulating as the years went by considerable valuable property. He became a stockholder, director and the vice president of the First National Bank of Quincy and his own name was an honored one on commercial paper. Fraternally he was a Mason, interested in the craft and in sympathy with its teachings. In politics he was a Republican, and several times represented his township on the board of supervisors. He was also chosen to represent his district in the lower branch of the state legislature for two terms and in the senate for two terms. He gave careful consideration to the questions whch came up for settlement and was instrumental in securing much wise legislation which has proven of direct benefit to the commonwealth. He was also connected with constructive legislation and his official career was characterized by an unfaltering devotion to the general good. Following his retirement from the office of state senator he was made president of the village board of Quincy and again was returned to the board of supervisors, whereupon he served for several additional terms. He married Miss Susan C. Warfield, who was born in New York and was a daughter of William H. Warfield, a native of Maryland, who removed from that state to the Empire state, where he engaged in tilling the soil. Mrs. Jones was one of two children, the brother being William H. Warfield, who is a retired farmer now living in Canandaigua, New York. Mrs. Jones was a member of the Presbyterian church and died in that faith in 1886 at the age of fifty-seven years, being survived for ten years by her husband, who passed away in 1895 at the age of sixty-six years. In their family were five children, but the first named is deceased. The others are: Clinton W., who is in the railway mail service and lives in Quincy; Addie E., the wife of Arthur Pessell, an employe of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company, living in Los Angeles, California; Herbert M., a farmer residing in Reading township; and Clarence C.

In the district schools Clarence C. Jones began his education, which he continued in Quincy and in a business college at Valparaiso, Indiana. Following the completion of his education he devoted his attention for a number of years to clerking in clothing stores in Quincy and Jonesville. He afterward took charge of a set of books in the mill at Jonesville, and later he returned to Quincy, where in 1897 he embarked in the grocery business, conducting his store for a year. In 1899 he entered the office of the Wolverine Portland Cement Company, at Quincy, where he has remained to the present time, covering a period of six years, and he is now one of the stockholders and directors of the company.

In 1892 was celebrated the marriage of Clarence C. Jones and Miss Lena M. Berry, who was born in Quincy in 1872, and is a daughter of L. D. and Mary (Redding) Berry, both of whom were residents of Quincy. Mrs. Jones has a half-sister, Nellie. She is a member of the Episcopal church, while Mr. Jones belongs to the Masonic Lodge and to the Knights of Pythias fraternity. He is a stalwart Republican, active in the work of his party in this locality, and in 1894 was chosen village treasurer, while in 1896 he was elected justice of the peace, and at this writing is serving his second term as

president of the village. Interested in its welfare and progress, his administration of office is practical and at the same time lacks not that progressive spirit which works for improvement along substantial lines.

A. J. DORRANCE.

A. J. Dorrance, proprietor of one of the oldest established drug stores of Coldwater, was born in Jackson, Michigan, December 22, 1856, his parents being A. A. and Juliet S. (Gregory) Dorrance. He is the youngest of three children, and attended the Jackson city schools until about twelve years of age, when he came to Coldwater and continued his education here. He began in the drug business with his father in 1873 in the capacity of clerk, and so continued until he became proprietor. He carries on business along both wholesale and retail lines and the house sustains an unassailable reputation for its progressive and honorable business methods. In 1890 A. J. Dorrance was united in marriage to Miss Anna J. Williams, who was left an orphan in early girlhood and was reared by her grandmother, Mrs. S. C. Williams, of Buffalo, New York. Her girlhood days were passed in South Carolina, and her education acquired in that state was completed by graduation from Aiken Academy. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Dorrance have been born seven children: Francis, Mary, Albert, Catherine, Elsie, Julia and Ralph.

Mr. Dorrance is a Republican, firm in his advocacy of the party and its principles, and yet without political aspirations for himself. He has resided in Coldwater from the age of twelve years, and has a wide acquaintance both in business and social circles. The fact that many of his warmest friends are numbered among those who have known him from boyhood is an indication of an honorable life and the proof of his activity and capability in business is found in the excellent success which attends his efforts. He has wrought along modern business lines, and energy and keen discrimination are accounted his dominant qualities.

F. J. DUNKS.

F. J. Dunks, who is now engaged in the real estate and loan business in Coldwater, is numbered among the citizens who have long resided in Branch county and have witnessed its development from the early days. His mind forms a connecting link between the primitive past and the progressive present and his influence and labors have been no unimportant element in promoting public progress.

Mr. Dunks was born in Monroe county, New York, September 13, 1835. His father, Edwin H. Dunks, was a native of New Hampshire, born in 1805, and from the Old Granite state he removed to Batavia, New York. He was a farmer by occupation, and in August, 1853, he came to Coldwater, Michigan, where he was engaged in loaning money. He died in the eighty-first year of his age, one of the respected and honored pioneer residents of this part of the state. His political views accorded with Republican principles, and his religious faith was that of the Baptist church. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Jane Wright, was born in Genesee county, New

York, in 1809, and died in Coldwater, Michigan, in 1882 at the age of seventy-three years. They were the parents of two daughters, now deceased, and two sons, the brother of our subject being Edward J. Dunks of Muskegon, Michigan.

F. J. Dunks, the eldest of this family, and the only one now living in Branch county, spent his boyhood days in Monroe and Orleans counties, New York, and pursued his education in the schools of Albion, that state. He was eighteen years of age when he came to Branch county, Michigan, and a short time before he attained his majority he returned to New York, purchasing a farm in Orleans county, whereon he made his home for a year. He then sold that property and again came to Branch county, purchasing a tract of land near Coldwater, which he still owns. He was married in October, 1862, to Miss Nancy Parsons, a daughter of Daniel and Amelia (Harrison) Parsons, the former a native of England, and the latter of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The mother came to Coldwater in 1829 with her aunt, and they cast in their lot with the pioneer settlers of this part of the state. There were only three white families living in what is now Coldwater, but the Indians were numerous, and their wigwams could be seen here and there in the forests. Much wild game, including deer, turkeys and prairie chickens, could be had, and wild animals were very numerous. The homes of the few settlers were mostly log cabins and the work of improvement and progress seemed scarcely begun. Mr. Parsons came to this county in 1836, and was married here in Coldwater. There were six children born of that union, of whom Mrs. Dunks is the second in order of birth, her natal day being July 21, 1841. She has spent her entire life in this county and has a very wide acquaintance here. At the time of his marriage Mr. Dunks located on his farm, four miles northeast of Coldwater in Coldwater township. The place was all covered with timber, and their home was a little log cabin eighteen by twenty-four feet. With characteristic energy he began clearing and developing the land. As soon as the trees were cut down and the brush cleared away he plowed his fields and planted his crops, and in the course of time had improved an excellent farm property of one hundred and sixty acres on which he erected good buildings, also built fences and added other modern accessories and equipments. He lived upon that farm for twenty years and still retains possession of the old homestead. In 1882, however, he removed to his present home at No. 336 Grand Avenue, and he owns forty-six acres of land within the city limits of Coldwater. For twenty-three years he has been engaged in the loan and real estate business here, and while upon the farm he devoted much of his attention to shipping live stock, being one of the leading representatives of that line of business in the county. He made a specialty of fancy cattle and was very successful. He has also prospered since coming to Coldwater, and has negotiated many important realty transfers and advantageously placed many loans. At the time of his marriage he started in life in debt, but soon discharged each financial obligation which devolved upon him, and through unfaltering perseverance, capable management and unremitting diligence he has steadily advanced to a position prominent in business circles in Branch county.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Dunks has been blessed with a son and two daughters: E. Wilford, who married Lottie Philips, of Chicago; Nellie L., the wife of Captain E. D. Legg, a lumber merchant of Coldwater; and Anna L., the wife of Frank Purdy, of this city. They have three grandchildren: Hazel Legg, Louis Legg and Ferris Purdy.

Mr. Dunks cast his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont, and has since given his allegiance to the Republican party. He is numbered among the pioneer settlers of Branch county and his wife has for even a longer period resided here. Great changes have occurred as pioneer conditions have been replaced by evidences of an advanced civilization. Practical in his methods, and public-spirited in his relation to the county, he has given valued support and co-operation to many measures for the general good. For years he has been an important factor in the development of the natural resources of the state, and in the control of his private business affairs he has also contributed to the general prosperity. He is a man of distinct and forceful individuality, and in business and social relations in private life he has commanded and enjoys the trust and good will of his fellow-men.

HON. ASAHEL BROWN.

Hon. Asahel Brown, long a leader in public thought and action in Branch county, is now numbered among her honored dead, but he left the impress of his individuality upon the laws of the state during active connection with its legislative department. As the champion of many progressive public measures he so advanced the general welfare that the people, appreciative of his worth, felt the deepest regret when he was called from the labors of life.

Mr. Brown was born in Stafford, Monmouth county, New Jersey, April 9, 1803, and died in Coldwater, June 8, 1874. His parents were Abner and Hannah (Birdsall) Brown. The father was also a native of Stafford, New Jersey, and was born March 14, 1772, while the mother's birth occurred in the same place, September 22, 1781. A few years after their marriage, about 1806, they removed to Monroe county, New York, where they spent their remaining days, Mr. Brown following the occupation of farming. Both were sturdy people of strong intellectuality and high moral character. They reared a family of seven children, of whom Asahel was the eldest, and all lived to mature years, namely: Asahel, Harriet, Rebecca, Abner, Jacob, Desiah and Mary.

Asahel Brown enjoyed only limited educational advantage in his youth, for his services were needed upon the home farm, and he assisted in the operation of his father's land until his thirtieth year, but though he had little opportunity of attending school he was throughout his entire life a student, and through the avenue of books, papers and a wide and varied experience he became a well-informed man. In his later years he made a close study of the questions bearing upon the welfare of his country, its social, economic and political conditions, and displayed in his conversation and public addresses a breadth of knowledge superior to that of many college-bred men.

In 1826 Mr. Brown was married to Miss Deborah Comstock, a daughter

of Jesse and Rachel Comstock, prominent pioneers of Monroe county, New York. Their daughter was born in Farmington, Ontario county, New York, July 15, 1808, and her death occurred in Algansee township, Branch county, Michigan, December 30, 1881. The children of this marriage were: J. Wesley, Emily, Rachel C. and Hannah C., twins, Othelia, Omar B., Combe A. and Omar C. The four eldest were born at Perrinton, New York, and in 1833 Asahel Brown started with his wife and children for Michigan, making the journey westward by wagon. He settled on a tract of land in Palmyra township, Lenawee county, but in the year 1836 removed to Algansee township, Branch county, where he took up his abode upon a tract of land, which he developed into a productive farm. In all of his labors he was practical and enterprising and sought out better methods and improved conditions.

It was in political life, however, that Asahel Brown became best known and did most effective work for his state. His early allegiance was given to the Whig party and he afterward became a Republican. His practical dealing with public questions and his undoubted honesty made him influential with the people, who naturally chose him for their leader. By popular ballot he was elected to most of the important offices within the gift of his fellow townsmen. For twenty-one consecutive years he served as supervisor and for many years was justice of the peace, in which position he rendered decisions that were strictly fair and impartial. In 1849 he was nominated on its ticket as a candidate for the state legislature but was defeated, the county being largely Democratic. In 1850 he was elected a delegate to the constitutional convention and assisted in framing the organic law of the state. In the same year he was chosen state senator, to which office he was re-elected in 1858, and to each question which came up for settlement he gave earnest consideration, becoming a stanch champion of every bill which he believed would prove beneficial to the interests of the commonwealth. Again in 1867 he was elected a delegate to the constitutional convention. He was greatly opposed to slavery, was a man of firm convictions and decided in his opinions and to these he gave forceful and earnest expression. He could always present his views with fairness, and by his undoubted sincerity he gained the respect of all who met him and many times won the support of their opinions. He was an effective worker on committees and while in the senate and in the constitutional convention did able work in constructing legislation. Notwithstanding all this he was rather retired in disposition nor did much to seek political preferment. In early life in religious faith he was a Universalist and his wife held membership with the Methodist church. In later years, however, both attended the Congregational church. They were among the honored pioneers of Branch county and bore all the hardships and trials incident to a life on the frontier. They left the impress of their individuality for good, however, upon the community and are yet remembered by many of the older residents of the county as among the pioneers to whom much credit is due for the impetus which they gave to development and substantial upbuilding here.

J. WESLEY BROWN.

J. Wesley Brown, the eldest of the eight children born unto Asahel and Deborah (Comstock) Brown, is now living a retired life in Coldwater. He was born in Perrinton, Monroe county, New York, August 27, 1827, and with his parents came to Michigan in 1833, remaining in Lenawee county until their removal to Branch county in 1836. He was reared upon the home farm amid pioneer scenes and environments and was educated in one of the primitive log schoolhouses such as were common in the districts at that time. He remained at the parental home and aided in the arduous task of developing a new farm until he was twenty-four years of age, when he started out in life on his own account on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in California township given him by his father. This land was entirely in its primitive condition, not a furrow having been turned or an improvement made, but Mr. Brown and his young wife, whom he had married October 8, 1851, and whose maiden name was Helen E. Tripp, settled upon this farm and engaged earnestly in its development and cultivation, remaining thereon until the fall of 1858. At that time they took up their residence in the city of Coldwater, where they have since lived. Mr. Brown subsequently sold his farm and having already a large experience in commercial lines, having been a mercantile clerk for three years, he turned his attention to merchandising in 1861 as a partner of H. J. Woodward, under the firm name of Woodward, Brown & Company, but in less than a year he sold his interest in that business. For a few months thereafter he was associated with Uri Blodgett in the furniture business. His next venture was in the hardware trade, which he entered in 1866 as a member of the firm of Mockeridge, Green & Company. This relation was maintained for three years, at the end of which time Mr. Brown disposed of his interest in the business and retired from active life. He has never sought political favors but has always given his support to the Republican party. He and his wife attend the services of the Episcopal church, although they are not communicants therein.

Mrs. Brown was born in Worcester, Otsego county, New York, December 21, 1833, and is the youngest of two children, whose parents were David and Sally (Flint) Tripp. Mr. and Mrs. Brown have one son, J. Birdsall, who makes his home with his parents and is engaged for the greater part of the time in looking after the interests of his father's farm lands and other real estate. Mr. Brown is honored as one whose business career will bear the closest investigation and scrutiny and who in all life's relations has been found true to the varied duties that have devolved upon him in connection with public and private interests.

DAVID TRIPP.

David Tripp, a pioneer resident of Branch county, was born in Decatur, New York, July 1, 1807. In tracing the ancestry we learn that David Tripp, Sr., was born February 21, 1768, and died on the 28th of November, 1828. He married Miss Mary Dickinson, whose natal day was June 1, 1772, and



Mrs H Wesley Brown



A. Wesley Brown



Residence of J. Wesley Brown.

who departed this life on the 10th of June, 1847. Their children are as follows: Lovina, Patience, Polly, Nancy, Nathan, Elizabeth, Robert, Hannah, Emily, David, George, Stephen, Marcia M., Reumah and Celestia.

Of this family of fifteen sons and daughters David Tripp, whose name introduces this record, was the tenth in order of birth. Having arrived at years of maturity he married Sally Flint, a daughter of S. Phineas and Parmelia (Houghton) Flint. She was born in Otsego, New York, November 26, 1808, and died October 9, 1879. The marriage was celebrated in 1829, and in the year 1836 they left New York for the west. After landing at Toledo, Ohio, they proceeded thence with ox-teams to their destination in Branch county, Michigan, arriving here in the month of July. They settled in Kinderhook township, where Mr. Tripp took charge of an unimproved tract of land from which he developed a fine farm, making his home thereon for many years. He became a prominent and wealthy agriculturist, and died October 2, 1875, respected by all who knew him. His political support was given to the Democratic party and he served as supervisor and justice of the peace. A pioneer of the county, he was classed among the industrious and worthy citizens who laid the foundation of civilization in this part of the state. He came here when the red men were still numerous in the county and undertook the task of reclaiming the district for the purposes of civilization. His labors were practical and have borne fruit in the improved conditions which are here seen today. He and his devoted wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church and were earnest and zealous supporters of the cause of Christianity in the early years of their residence here.

VIRGIL U. HUNGERFORD.

Virgil U. Hungerford, a prosperous and representative farmer, living on section twenty, Algansee township, is one of the native sons of the county, for his birth occurred in the village of Algansee, in 1869. His father, Henry W. Hungerford, was born in Oakland county, Michigan, in 1834, and was of English lineage. His father was Matthew H. Hungerford, a native of New York, and a son of Eliphalet Hungerford, who came from England to this country and settled in New England. Henry W. Hungerford was a student in Hillsdale College, and engaged in teaching school in this state until the outbreak of the Civil war. He had become a resident of Branch county about 1856, and purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land on section twenty, Algansee township. After severing his connection with the teacher's profession he devoted his energies to agricultural pursuits, but during the dark days of the country's peril, when the disloyalty of the south threatened disruption of the Union, he defended the stars and stripes. Twice he volunteered and was rejected on account of physical disability, but at length was accepted as a member of Company G, Ninth Michigan Infantry, and served for about four months, or until the close of the war. A man of genuine worth, of upright principles and moral life, he was for many years a faithful member of the Congregational church, in which he served as deacon. In his political views he was an earnest Republican and filled the

office of school inspector, while for several years he was township clerk. He married Sophia M. Mabbs, who was born in New York city, and is living at the age of seventy years, her birth having occurred April 14, 1835. Her father, William Mabbs, came from England in 1834, and established his house in New York City, whence he afterward came to Michigan, settling in Hillsdale county, in 1840. He was a representative of the English middle class and came to the United States well supplied with funds, having been a prosperous soap manufacturer of his native land. He deposited a large sum of money in a bank in New York city, but the institution failed and he therefore came to Michigan a poor man. Here he turned his attention to farming and the manufacture of brick. He married Hannah Hill Stace, a native of London, England, who for seventeen years prior to her death was blind. Mr. Mabbs passed away in 1870, at the age of seventy-eight years, while his wife died in 1880, at the advanced age of eighty-seven years. They were members of the Congregational church and in their family were eight children: John, who was an engineer in the new Board of Trade building in Chicago, died in 1904; William and Vennette are both deceased; William Bagley is a statistician of Lansing; Austin is the owner and operator of gold mines in the west and makes his home at Deadwood, South Dakota; Robert is a retired farmer, living in Allegan, Michigan; Hannah is the deceased wife of Henry Sadler, a resident farmer of Allegan county; Henry, who studied for the ministry, became a soldier of the Civil war and died in a hospital at New Orleans, Louisiana; and Sophia was the youngest and became Mrs. Hungerford. She is still living at the age of seventy years, having been born on the 14th of April, 1835, but Mr. Hungerford departed this life January 31, 1901. In their family were two sons and three daughters: Virgil U.; Bertha E., wife of E. D. Conkling, a farmer of Kinderhook, Michigan; Mary G., the wife of L. H. Draper, of Algansee; Volney R., superintendent of schools at Decatur, Michigan; and Emily E., who is a graduate of the high school of Coldwater of the class of 1896, and of Olivet College, of the class of 1904. Volney is also a graduate of those institutions.

Virgil U. Hungerford spent his boyhood days in the usual manner of farm lads of the locality and his early educational privileges were supplemented by study in the schools of Quincy and of Ypsilanti, Michigan. He taught a graded school in California, Michigan, and in other places, being identified with the profession for ten years, but his energies are now devoted to general agricultural pursuits and stock-raising, and in his chosen vocation he has become very prosperous, being now one of the substantial farmers of the community. He is now also associated in the firm of Perry & Hungerford, real estate dealers.

Mr. Hungerford was married, March 29, 1891, to Miss Lillie May Bovee, a daughter of Clark Bovee, and she died July 30, 1891, at the age of twenty-one years. Five years later he wedded Clara M. Marshall, whose birth occurred in Ovid township, in 1875. Her father, Albert Marshall, was a native of Canada, and came to the United States in his boyhood days with his mother. Here he wedded Emma Flint, of Kinderhook. Mr. and Mrs.

Hungerford have become the parents of three children: Gladys L., born in 1898; Ruth, in 1899; and Helen, in 1901.

Mr. Hungerford is a member of the Odd Fellows Society and of the Modern Woodmen Camp, while his wife belongs to the Congregational church. In politics he is a Republican, and is serving as school inspector and deputy sheriff of the county.

GEORGE HERMAN COLE.

Branch county offers excellent opportunities to the farmer, for the land is rich and productive, responding readily to cultivation, and thus in the care of his property Mr. Cole is meeting with good success. He has a farm on sections nineteen and thirty, Ovid township, comprising one hundred acres. He is one of the citizens that the Empire state has furnished to Michigan, his birth having there occurred on the 27th of May, 1851. His father, George W. Cole, who came to Branch county in pioneer times and followed the carpenter's trade here, was born in New York in 1812, and was married there to Miss Louisa Ransier, likewise a native of that state. As the years passed their marriage was blessed with ten children, four sons and six daughters, namely: Jonathan and Alphonso, both deceased; Watson; Helen, who has also passed away; Francis; Delia and Mary, deceased; George Herman; Adelaide, deceased; and Adeline, twin sister of Adelaide.

George Herman Cole spent the first three and a half years of his life in his native state and then came with his father's family to Michigan, their home being established in Bethel township, Branch county. They settled upon a tract of land of forty acres, which the father cleared and cultivated. Later he sold that property, in 1860, and removed to Ovid township, where he bought eighty acres of timber land, which he also partially cleared. The members of the household early became inured to the arduous task of clearing and cultivating new land and shared in the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life before this district was connected with the older east by a network of railroads that bring to the county all of the comforts and conveniences known to the older civilization. The father was a Democrat in his political views and his death occurred January 14, 1891.

George Herman Cole had been reared to farm life, while in the district schools he obtained his education, pursuing his studies in the winter months, while in the summer seasons he aided in the labors of the farm. At the time of his father's death he obtained possession of the old home place by purchasing the mortgages. He was married in Ovid township in April, 1873, to Miss Louisa Treat, whose birth occurred in this township, August 19, 1854. Her father, Henry Treat, was a well known farmer and early settler of the community, who came to Branch county from New York when the work of improvement and progress had scarcely been begun in this part of the state. Mr. and Mrs. Cole now have a family of two children, Marion and Ivy, and they also lost two, Henry and Leo, who were the first and third in order of birth, respectively. All were born in Branch county.

Politically a Democrat where national issues are involved, Mr. Cole votes independently at local elections, but has never been an aspirant for

public office, preferring to give his undivided attention to his farm work. He had no inheritance to aid him as he started out for himself, nor have conditions been peculiarly fortunate in his business career. He has won success, however, through earnest labor, early realizing the truth of the admonition of the old Greek philosopher, "earn thy reward, the gods give naught to sloth," he has labored untiringly year after year until he has gained that prosperity which always comes as the reward of persistent, energetic effort.

HORACE DENHAM.

Horace Denham, of Quincy township, who has lived since boyhood in this county, was born in Ontario county, New York, November 23, 1856. His father, Cornelius, who was born at Conway, Massachusetts, and who passed away in this county in the winter of 1905, at the age of eighty-seven, was the fourth of five children, all deceased; namely, Elijah, William, Luther, Cornelius and Lucinda, wife of Callister Mellen. The Denhams are of the New England stock. Cornelius Denham married Sarah Blodgett, who, a native of Ontario county, New York, died in 1900, at the age of eighty-two, and was one of the seven children of William and Lydia (Mapes) Blodgett, the former a native of New York and the latter of New Jersey. Uri Blodgett, of Coldwater, is a brother of the late Mrs. Denham. Cornelius Denham and family came to Branch county in the spring of 1865, locating in the southeast corner of Butler township, where he lived till death. He was one of the extensive and prosperous farmers of the county, owning three hundred and twenty-five acres, and also handled a large amount of live stock. Starting in life with a common school education, he prospered by industry and was a man of influence and worth in all the relations of life. He was a Republican, without aspirations for office, and indeed was of a retiring and modest disposition which shunned all ostentation, his life work being successfully accomplished by quiet means.

Though reared on a farm Mr. Denham had good educational advantages. His attendance at district school was supplemented by study at Hillsdale College, but when school days were over he returned to the farm and has followed the vocation of agriculture with increasing success all the remaining years. He has lived in Quincy township since 1889, where he owns a first-class farm of eighty acres, besides eighty acres in Butler township. His home is on section two, where he has a beautiful and comfortable country residence.

Mr. Denham married, in 1889, Miss Cora Van Orthwick, who was born in Butler township in 1869. Her parents, Aaron and Helen (Nichols) Van Orthwick, are well known citizens of Butler township. Her father, of Holland ancestry, came to Michigan in 1860, first locating in Coldwater township, and then in Butler. He was born in New York state, while his wife is a native of Quincy township. Mrs. Denham has two brothers, Charles, in Butler township, and Jay, in the grocery business at Quincy. Mr. and Mrs. Denham have one child, Claude, now fourteen years old. Mrs. Denham is a member of the Methodist church, and his politics is Republican. Besides his farming interests he is a stock-raiser of considerable importance.



Residence of Prosper C. Johnson.



Prosper C. Johnson

PROSPER C. JOHNSON.

Prosper C. Johnson, a member of the real estate firm of Johnson & Kanauss, carrying on a business second to none in the county, was born in Erie county, Ohio, on the 1st of September, 1838, his parents being James D. and Ida (Squares) Johnson. Both parents were natives of the state of New York and removed thence at an early date, settling first in Loraine county, Ohio, and afterward in Erie county, where the mother died in 1847. They had become the parents of eight children, six sons and two daughters, all of whom reached mature years. In 1850 the father, then a widower, came to Michigan with his children and settled in Union township, Branch county, where he resided for many years. He died at the advanced age of eighty-five years, after having led a busy, useful life as a farmer. He was one of the pioneers of the county and in the early days endured all the hardships and privations incident to settlement on the frontier. When he came to Branch county he purchased under contract a small tract of land, on which he was able to make a payment of only twenty-five dollars, and had not the contract been renewed by the former owner he would not have been able to retain possession of this place, because he had not the money necessary for the succeeding payments. In time, however, he was enabled to triumph over the difficulties and obstacles which surrounded him in his pioneer days and to develop a good home for his family.

Prosper C. Johnson was only twelve years of age when the father brought his children to Branch county, and with the others he was reared amid the environments and scenes of pioneer life, early becoming familiar with the arduous duties and labors incident to the development of a new farm. He chopped wood many long days for fifty cents per day and he worked for his father and other farmers of the locality. He received at times only ten dollars per month for his services, but this was considered then a very good wage. He had limited school advantages, his opportunities being confined to short winter terms in the pioneer country schools and throughout the remainder of the year he had to work diligently in order to contribute to the support of the family.

In 1863 Mr. Johnson was united in marriage to Miss Sarah A. Hulben, and he then settled down in life as a farmer, taking up his abode in Girard township, where he purchased forty acres of land. He had to incur some indebtedness, because he had not capital sufficient to make the entire payment. Earnestly and diligently he began the work of improving his property, and by good management and frugality was soon enabled to clear his farm of all financial obligation. He continued the work of cultivation and improvement and as his financial resources increased he extended the boundaries of his place until he owned in one body two hundred and fifty-five acres, comprising one of the best improved and most valuable farms in Branch county. His wife was indeed a faithful helpmate to him in all his troubles, and after sharing his joys and sorrows, his adversity and prosperity for thirty-one years she was then called to her final home in 1894.

Two sons and a daughter were born unto their marriage. They were reared on the farm and were given every possible educational opportunity, for Mr. Johnson realized the disadvantages to which he had been placed in life because of a limited education, and in order that his children should not suffer from the same lack he and his estimable wife made many sacrifices. His sons reside in Coldwater, where one is a lawyer and the other a business man, and the daughter and her husband reside on the old homestead farm. In 1895 Mr. Johnson was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Ida Cole, nee Palmer.

In 1901 Mr. Johnson decided to retire from the arduous duties of farm life. He had resided for thirty-seven years on the same place and from early youth had labored hard in the fields and meadows. His efforts, however, had been attended with pleasing success, and he had provided well for his wife and children, who, having now grown to years of maturity and needing his help no longer, Mr. Johnson decided to take up his abode in Coldwater, where he located in 1901. It was his intention to retire altogether from active business cares and enjoy an ease and rest that he had justly earned, but having led a most industrious life he found that indolence was utterly incompatible with his nature and he needed something to engage his time and attention. He then decided to enter the field of real estate operations and a year after removing to Coldwater he began dealing in real estate. Later he entered into partnership with Samuel Kanauss, and today the real estate firm of Johnson & Kanauss conducts a business second to none in the county, negotiating annually many important realty transfers. In politics Mr. Johnson has always been independent. He is a self-made man and no citizen of this county is held in higher respect than he. His worth is widely recognized by his fellow citizens, and his example is well worthy of emulation, showing what can be accomplished by strong purpose, indefatigable energy and resolute will. He is entirely free from ostentation and display, but in his life has shown forth many sterling traits of character whereby he is justly entitled to the confidence and esteem of his fellow men.

CHARLES E. SWAIN.

Charles E. Swain, a retired farmer of Sherwood, traces his descent back to ancestry honorable and distinguished, for the first representatives of the family in America were of English birth and came to the new world on the Mayflower with the little historic band of Pilgrims who sought in the freedom of the new world opportunity to worship according to the dictates of their own conscience. Mr. Swain was born in Niagara county, New York, December 19, 1838. His father, Joseph G. Swain, was a native of New Bedford, Massachusetts, where he pursued his education and was reared. When a young man he went as a sailor on the high seas and followed that life for about thirty years. He was married in Geneseo county, New York, to Miss Louisa Dewey, a native of that county. Later he purchased a farm in Niagara county, where he resided until 1846, when he came to Branch county, Michigan, settling in Union township. He owned at different times a num-

ber of farms in that township and continued to engage in agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred when he was about sixty years of age. In the family were four sons, all of whom reached manhood, were married, reared families of their own and are yet living, namely: Charles E.; William Warren, who resides in Carthage, Missouri; Martin, of Union City, Michigan; and Albert, of Bear Lake, Manistee county, Michigan.

Charles E. Swain was only eight years of age when he came with his parents to Branch county, and in the midst of the forest in Union township he was reared, his educational privileges being such as were afforded by the common schools at an early day. He remained at home until nineteen years of age, when he removed to Iowa, settling near Davenport, where he lived for a year. He next went to Linn county, Missouri, where he resided until 1858, when he again came to Branch county. It was in that year that he was married in this county to Miss Mary Helen Studley, who died, leaving five children: Frank, who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume; Fred A., a resident farmer of Union township; Edwin, deceased; Orville, a dealer in cigars in St. Paul, Minnesota; and Joseph W., who is a painter of Iowa City, Iowa.

Mr. Swain was married on the 19th of February, 1873, to Miss Harriet Billings, a daughter of N. A. and Elizabeth (Rowe) Billings. Mrs. Swain was born in Sherwood township, her parents being among the pioneer settlers of this county, where they arrived in 1836. The father came to Michigan from Saratoga county, New York, while the mother was a native of St. Lawrence county, New York. Mr. and Mrs. Swain have become the parents of a daughter and son: Mary, who is now the wife of Arthur Morris of Constantine, St. Joseph county, Michigan; and Aldredge, who married Hattie Kline and is living in Sherwood.

Following his first marriage Charles E. Swain returned, in 1858, to Missouri, where he remained until 1861, when he again came to Branch county, settling in Union township, where he was engaged in general farming until 1872. In that year he took up his abode in Sherwood, where he has since resided, and he worked at the carpenter's trade for about eighteen years, doing business as a contractor and builder and erecting many houses in Branch county, a number of these being in the village of Sherwood. He owns a farm in Sherwood township, and is now living retired in the enjoyment of a well earned rest. His life in former years was one of intense activity and his labors were discerningly directed along well defined lines until he gained a competence that now enables him to put aside further business cares.

Mr. Swain has been a life-long Republican and served as supervisor of Sherwood township in 1875 and 1876. He was also township clerk for several terms and highway commissioner for several years. He likewise held the office of township treasurer for a year, was a member of the village council and acted on the school board until he declined longer to fill the office. He has been a member of the Masonic fraternity for thirty-five years, of the Grange for thirty years, and he and his wife are charter members of the Eastern Star. With little assistance at the outset of his career he has

worked his way steadily upward, placing his dependence upon the substantial qualities of energy and determination, together with unfaltering diligence. He has a wide acquaintance in the county in which so many years of his life have been spent, and his friends recognize in him the possession of those qualities which in every land and clime command respect and admiration.

LEONARD DANIEL CLARK.

Leonard Daniel Clark, deceased, was for many years a highly respected citizen of Branch county. He was born in Ohio, November 25, 1825, and spent the first twelve years of his life in his native state, receiving his early education in the district schools. In 1837, the family moved to Michigan and settled in Branch county. Here the youth was three miles distant from school, the way led through the woods, and so wild was the country at that time that it was not an unusual occurrence for him to be chased by wolves as he walked to and from school. He learned the trade of shoemaker of his father, which he followed for some years, then bought a farm of two hundred acres and, until 1892, was engaged in agricultural pursuits. That year he sold his farm and came to Bronson, where the rest of his life was passed in retirement, and where he died April 22, 1905, at the ripe age of eighty years. He built and owned a fine brick block and two residences in Bronson. For years he was a trustee of the Farmers' Insurance Company, and he was identified with Mystic Lodge, A. F. and A. M.

Mr. Clark was married in 1848. Mrs. Clark, who survives him, was Dorothy M. Brower, a daughter of Aaron Brower, a New Yorker who came as a pioneer farmer to Branch county, Michigan. The fruits of their marriage were six children, namely: Myron Clark, who is engaged in the grocery business in Bronson; Helen, wife of Lucien Driggs, of Lansing; Mary, deceased; Eugene, a dry goods merchant of Bronson; and Aaron and one unnamed that died in infancy.

SAMUEL AND WILLIAM SHERER.

Among the prosperous and highly regarded residents of southern Michigan we find a number of German descent whose ancestors came to this country in the last century or the century previous and first settled in Pennsylvania, many of them afterward removing from there to Ohio in an early day, and from there to Michigan. It is also a notable fact that these descendants of the sturdy Germans are now among our very best farmers, nearly all of them well-to-do, with large farms and excellent buildings, while they rank as our very best citizens.

Such are the members of the Sherer family, of whom we find a number in the southern part of Branch county, notably in California township. This branch of the Sherer family is descended from one William Sherer, who was born in Germany and who, upon coming to this country, located in Pennsylvania. He was only twelve years old when he left Germany and he was attracted to America by the fact that an elder brother had preceded him here several years. William grew to maturity in Pennsylvania, and there

early learned the trade of shoemaking, which he followed more or less throughout his life, although he was a farmer in later years. In Pennsylvania he was married to Catherine Myers, who was also of German descent, and they had four children when they decided to try and better their fortunes in the then new state of Ohio. They lived for several years in Seneca county, and later removed to Sandusky county, where the parents passed the remainder of their lives, William Sherer dying there January 18, 1842, and his wife dying at the age of eighty-three years. Both were members of the Lutheran church and they were people of high standing in the communities wherein they had lived. Eleven children were born unto them, two of whom died in infancy, the others being as follows: George, Henry and William died in Sandusky county, Ohio; John died in Quincy, Michigan; Samuel and David, both still living, are residents of California township; Benjamin lives in Ohio; Jeremiah died in the west. It will thus be seen that of this large family of children only three are now living.

This review concerns one of the sons, Samuel, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, January 17, 1824, just previous to the removal of his parents from there to Seneca county. Samuel grew to manhood upon the home farm, and when twenty years old started out for himself. He was married April 11, 1852, in Sandusky county, Ohio, to Catherine Babione, who was born in Ohio, September 26, 1824. During his early manhood Mr. Sherer was engaged in various enterprises and also worked in mills for some years. Soon after marriage he purchased eighty acres of new land in California township, this county, although he did not come and make his home here until about three years thereafter. This land he improved, and he made for himself and his family a most comfortable home here. In addition to this he also owns eighty acres of land in sections eleven and fourteen. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Sherer, all of whom are living, as follows: Daniel lives in Lester, Michigan; William is one of the subjects of this review; John is in Toledo; Samuel E. lives in California township; Mary Haight is also a resident of this township. The mother, Mrs. Sherer, died September 6, 1888. She was a most estimable woman and was a member of the Lutheran church, to which her husband also formerly belonged. At her death the following obituary notice was written:

"Catherine Babione was born in Fremont, Ohio, September 26, 1834, and died September 6, 1888, at her home in California, Michigan. She was married to Samuel Sherer, April 16, 1852, and came to this place in 1853. She was the mother of five children, all of whom were present at the funeral. She united with the Lutheran church in Ohio and had her children all baptized there. Her death was caused by paralysis. She was sick four days, being unconscious nearly all of the time, but the day before she died she became conscious, knew those around her, and on being asked if she was prepared to die, replied 'Yes.' She leaves a husband, five children, four brothers and a host of friends to mourn her loss. The funeral was held at the Presbyterian church and was conducted by Rev. Mr. Boyd."

Politically, Mr. Sherer has always been a Democrat, although never a

seeker after office. His life has been a long and industrious one; he has been wise in the rearing of his children, and he has so conducted his life as to win the approbation and regard of his fellow-citizens. He is passing his declining years upon the old home farm, where also reside his son William and family.

William Sherer, the second child in order of birth of Samuel and Catherine Sherer, was born in the township of California, October 10, 1856, and his entire life thus far has been passed here. Growing to maturity as he did upon the farm, he learned the value of industry and gained a good practical knowledge of agriculture. He was united in marriage, January 3, 1886, with Miss Addie Back, who is a native of Kansas. Her father is Alvin Back, and her mother is Josephine Morris Back, a native of Stark county, Ohio, where she was born August 5, 1847. Mr. Back was born in Williams county, Ohio, January 29, 1842. The home of the Backs has been in Williams county, Ohio, with the exception of a few years' residence in Kansas, until a year ago, when they removed to Ray, Indiana, where Mr. and Mrs. Back still reside, although Mr. Back still retains his farm in Williams county. Mrs. William Sherer is their only child.

One son, John Wesley Sherer, has been born to Mr. and Mrs. William Sherer, his birthday being January 3, 1887. He is attending school and lives at home with his parents. Among the leading and progressive young farmers of this portion of Branch county Mr. William Sherer stands prominently. He may well feel proud of his life as a dutiful son, as he worked his father's farm for twenty-nine years by rent and shares, and never skipped a year. Possibly, there is not another son in southern Michigan with such a record of industry and filial duty to his parents. His possessions now include one hundred and eighty-six acres of fertile land on sections one, two, three and eleven, California township, a goodly share of which he has cleared and improved himself. Each of his farms has good buildings and is equipped with all accessories for operation. Although still a young man, Mr. Sherer has already accumulated considerable property, and in the community where he has spent all his life he is known as a man of integrity and an influential citizen.

JOHN HARDENBROOK.

Branch county figures as one of the most attractive, progressive and prosperous divisions of the state of Michigan, justly claiming a high order of citizenship and a spirit of enterprise which is certain to conserve consecutive development and marked advancement in the material upbuilding of the section. The county has been and is signally favored in the class of men who have controlled its affairs in official capacity, and in this connection the subject of this review demands representation as one who has served the county faithfully and well in positions of distinct trust and responsibility. He is now sheriff in Branch county, where he has lived for seventeen years.

Mr. Hardenbrook was born on a farm in Williams county, Ohio, April 21, 1856, his parents being Ferdinand and Jeanette (Lindsley) Hardenbrook, the former a native of New York and the latter of Scotland. Both are now



John Hardenbrook

deceased, having departed this life in Steuben county, Indiana, to which place they removed when John Hardenbrook was eighteen years of age. There he resided continuously until thirty-two years of age, and in 1888 he came to Branch county, where he has since made his home. His education was that offered by the common schools, and his life has been characterized by untiring energy and industry. He was reared upon a farm and continuously engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1894, when he was elected to the office of supervisor of California township, in which capacity he capably served for two years. He was then engaged in the drug business in Ray, Indiana, for six years and won success in his undertakings. In 1901 he was appointed under sheriff, acting in that capacity for nearly three years, and in the fall of 1904 he was elected sheriff by a majority of two thousand one hundred and twenty-one, so that he is the present incumbent of that office.

In 1880 Mr. Hardenbrook was united in marriage to Miss Mary Hufnagle, and unto them have been born three children who are yet living, while two are deceased. Mr. Hardenbrook is fraternally connected with the Knights of the Maccabees and with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, while his political allegiance is given to the Republican party. He has been enterprising, persevering and reliable in all business transactions and the same beneficial qualities of good citizenship have been manifest in his official service.

L. J. CORWIN.

L. J. Corwin, a farmer and worthy citizen of Kinderhook township, Branch county, was born in Ovid township, on the 12th of December, 1855. His father, Jerome Corwin, became a pioneer resident and representative citizen of this part of the state, living in Ovid township up to the time of his death. He was born in New York in 1826 and spent the first nine years of his life in the Empire state, after which he came to Michigan and continued a resident of Branch county until called to the home beyond. His father, Jonathan Corwin, was also born in New York and brought his family to Michigan, taking up his abode in Coldwater, where he remained for some time. He was a physician by profession and practiced medicine with good success in the early days of his residence here. That the county was largely undeveloped is indicated by the fact that there were many tracts of land still in possession of the government, and Jonathan Corwin secured forty acres as a government claim. His death occurred when he had been a resident of Branch county for about six years. Jerome Corwin was reared and educated in this county. Shortly after the father's death the family removed to Ovid township and lived on several different farms in that portion of the county, finally settling upon the farm now owned and operated by Levi Tift. While living in Ovid township Jerome Corwin was married to Miss Elizabeth Towsley, a native of Canada, and unto them was born one son, Edwin. The wife and mother died about two years after her marriage, and later Mr. Corwin was married again, his second union being with Salome Flint, a native of Vermont, whose father was one of the old and prominent pioneer residents of Branch county, who on coming to Michigan first settled in Calhoun county, but later came to this county, where he devoted his ener-

gies to farming. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Corwin were born five children, three sons and two daughters, of whom one is now deceased. L. J. Corwin was the eldest of this family. The father gave earnest endorsement to Republican principles and never failed to cast his ballot for the men and measures of the party. He also took an active interest in its work and did what he could to promote its growth and insure its success. He served as supervisor of Ovid township for one term and was well known in the county as a public-spirited citizen, whose life displayed many sterling traits of character that commanded uniform confidence and respect. He died in February, 1887.

L. J. Corwin is indebted to the district schools of Ovid township for the educational privileges which he received. He remained at home until he attained his majority, and not long afterward, on the 6th of February, 1877, was married to Miss Ida Clark, a daughter of Wallace and Mary Clark, and a native of LaGrange county, Indiana, born on the 4th of July, 1856. There the first twelve years of her life were passed and she then came with her parents to Branch county, Michigan, after which she continued her education in the schools of Kinderhook township. The young couple began their domestic life upon a farm of eighty acres in Ovid township, and, working persistently and energetically as the years passed by, Mr. Corwin secured capital sufficient to enable him to extend the boundaries of his place, which now comprises one hundred and twenty acres and is a valuable property, well equipped with modern improvements. Later he removed to Angola, Indiana, where he remained for about two years, and in 1902 he took up his abode in Kinderhook, where he built his present home. He lives in the town of Kinderhook, but gives his attention to his farming interests.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Corwin have been born two sons and a daughter, Clark J., Seibert and Edna Hazel, all of whom were born on the homestead farm in Ovid township. The family are members of the Congregational church at Kinderhook, in the work of which Mr. Corwin takes an active and influential part. He served as trustee of the church since the erection of the present house of worship, and he contributed generously to the building fund. He generally votes for men and measures rather than for party, and in 1905 he was elected supervisor of his township, which position he is now filling. His father was a recognized leader in local political circles, and for about two terms served as justice of the peace, while for a number of years he was road commissioner. Both father and son have taken an active and helpful interest in everything pertaining to general progress, and the general good, and their labors have been effective, so that they have become valued and leading citizens of this part of the state.

ALPHONSO TYLER.

Alphonso Tyler, who is serving as under-sheriff of Branch county, and is one of the well known farmers and early settlers, his home being now on section five, Batavia township, was born upon this place April 25, 1848. He is a brother of William M. Tyler, whose history is given upon another page of this work. The family was established in Branch county at a very early period in its development, and the name has ever stood as a synonym

of good citizenship and of activity and honor in business. In the family were five sons and three daughters, of whom Alfonso Tyler is the seventh child and fifth son.

Mr. Tyler was educated in his native township, mastering the branches of learning usually taught in the common schools, and he remained at home until he had attained his majority, working in the fields through the summer months, or until after the crops were harvested in the late autumn. On the 16th of February, 1874, he wedded Miss Amanda M. Wright, a daughter of John and Mary (Johnson) Wright. She was born in Huron county, Ohio, and came to this county in early maidenhood. The young couple began their domestic life upon his farm, and they have become the parents of one son, Hugh A. Mr. Tyler has always devoted his energies and attention to general farming and has also carried on stock buying and shipping, following this business for about ten years. He has eighty acres of land and the farm is well equipped with modern improvements. He has always voted with the Republican party and is now serving as under-sheriff of the county. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity at Union City, and in business, fraternal and political circles has made a creditable name, having always been found loyal to the trust reposed in him.

ALBERT N. BRINTON.

Among the men of advanced years who lend dignity and honor to the citizenship of Coldwater, Albert N. Brinton is numbered. He has passed the allotted span of three score years and ten, his birth having occurred in Salisbury, Connecticut, November 13, 1827. The Brintons came to America on the Mayflower, two brothers of the name sailing from England on that historic vessel, and from that time to the present representatives of the name have been respected and worthy citizens of New England. The grandfather was born in Massachusetts, which was also the native state of Samuel Brinton, father of our subject. By occupation Samuel Brinton was a furnaceman, engaged in operating blast furnaces until he came to Branch county, and then a farmer. Seeking a home in the west he came to Branch county with his son, Albert. Here he spent his remaining days, his death occurring in this county in 1867, when he was seventy-three years of age, and his remains were interred in New York. His wife bore the maiden name of Mary Whitney and was a native of Massachusetts, while her ancestors came from England. She died at the age of sixty-three years and was also buried in the Empire state. Of their family of four sons and one daughter all reached adult age, but Albert N. Brinton, the youngest, is the only one yet living.

Albert N. Brinton was only about five years old when his parents removed from Connecticut to Dutchess county, New York, where the succeeding eight years of his life were passed. They then became residents of Chautauqua, New York, where he grew to manhood and was married, Miss Elvira H. Bidgood becoming his wife. She was a daughter of William Bidgood, who came to Michigan in 1866 and died in Coldwater township, Branch county, in his eighty-first year. Mrs. Brinton was born in Warren county,

Pennsylvania, February 11, 1834, and with her husband came to Michigan in 1866, the family home being established in Coldwater township, where he became the owner of a tract of land. There, in connection with farming, he conducted a blacksmith shop, having learned the trade when he was eighteen years of age. He followed that pursuit for about thirty-five years, and later gave his undivided attention to agricultural interests until his retirement from business in 1898, at which time he took up his abode in Coldwater. Mr. and Mrs. Brinton have traveled life's journey together for fifty-two years and have moved but twice in all that time, first when they came to Branch county, and secondly when they settled in Coldwater. They have two sons: Clarence N., a resident of Battle Creek, Michigan, and Samuel W., of this city.

Mr. Brinton still owns his farm, comprising forty acres of land in Coldwater township, and this brings to him a good rental. When age gave to him the right of franchise he proudly cast the first presidential vote for the candidate of the Whig party, and continued his affiliation with that political organization until the formation of the Republican party, when he joined its ranks. He has never failed to vote at a presidential election since that time, and he has taken an active part in local public affairs. He was justice of the peace for twelve years in Coldwater township, and was also township drain commissioner, while in 1896 he was elected county drain commissioner, filling that position for two years. While justice of the peace he married eighteen couples. In the trial of the litigated interests which came before him he was always fair and just in his rulings, neither fear nor favor biasing him in giving an opinion. He served as school director for about eighteen years and the cause of education has ever found in him a warm friend. He has done everything in his power to promote the cause of the schools and give to the young better advantages in order that they may be well qualified for the practical and responsible duties of life. Mr. Brinton has been an honored member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows since 1849, has filled all of the chairs in the local lodge, has been representative to the grand lodge and grand encampment and is now treasurer of Coldwater Lodge No. 31. His wife belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church, with which she has been identified for forty years. Mr. Brinton favors every progressive movement that has been instituted in Branch county for its material, intellectual and moral progress, and his life has been such as to win him the respect and good will of his fellow men. Reliable in business, trustworthy in citizenship, devoted to his family and holding friendship inviolable, he has made for himself an untarnished name as the years have gone by.

SAMUEL L. KILBOURN.

Samuel L. Kilbourn, proprietor of a hardware store in Union City, was born in Niagara county, New York, August 8, 1834. His father, David Kilbourn, was a native of Massachusetts, and remained in the Old Bay state until twenty-one years of age, when he removed to Niagara county, New York, taking up his abode on a farm there. He came to Branch county in 1836, locating in Union township, where he entered land from the govern-

ment. For two years he resided upon that farm, at the end of which time he located in Sherwood township, building one of the first sawmills there. He then engaged in the manufacture of lumber for about twelve years, being one of the early representatives of industrial life in his community. Later he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits near the village of Sherwood, there spending his remaining days, his death occurring when he was about seventy-six years of age. He was a member of the Congregational church at Union City, which he joined on its organization, and for many years his labors were a potent factor in its growth and progress. His early political support was given to the Whig party, and upon its dissolution he joined the ranks of the new Republican party, being called to the office of highway commissioner as its representative, and to other local positions of public honor and trust. He was one of the worthy pioneers of Branch county, his efforts proving a tangible element in the upbuilding and development of this part of the state. His worth, too, was widely acknowledged by all who knew him, and his loss was deeply regretted by many friends. In early manhood he married Miss Clarinda Hawley, a daughter of Chapman Hawley, who died in Branch county. Mrs. Kilbourn was born in Niagara county, New York, and died in the eighty-third year of her age in Sherwood township. In their family were nine children, five sons and four daughters, all of whom reached adult age, and George Kilbourn died in 1862, while defending his country as a soldier in the Union army.

Samuel L. Kilbourn, who was the sixth child and fourth son in his father's family, was only two years of age at the time of the parents' removal to this county. His boyhood was passed in Sherwood township, and in the public schools he acquired his education. His training at farm labor was not meager, for as soon as old enough to handle the plow he began work in the fields and continued to assist in the operation of the old homestead until after the inauguration of the Civil war in 1861. As soon as it was seen that the contest was to be no mere holiday affair, but a bitter struggle for supremacy, he espoused the cause of the Union, enlisting as a member of Company D, First Michigan Light Artillery, with which he served for three years. He participated in the battle of Corinth and other engagements in eastern Tennessee, and then returned to Louisville, Kentucky, a distance of three hundred miles, and covering twenty miles per day. He took part in the battle of Crab Orchard, and afterward returned to Nashville, taking part in the engagement at Stone River on the last day of the year and the first two days of the new year. Mr. Kilbourn was also in the engagement at Chattanooga and Chickamauga, where the battery lost all but one gun. The men then remained in that vicinity until December, when they were ordered back to Nashville, where they secured a battery, horses and equipments. They got a command to turn over to an Indiana company their full equipment and to proceed to Murfreesboro, where Mr. Kilbourn remained until the expiration of his term of service. He received an honorable discharge at Nashville, Tennessee, September 17, 1864, having served exactly three years.

When he was discharged he returned to Sherwood, Branch county, with

an honorable military record, and afterward engaged in farming, which pursuit he followed continuously until 1889, when he retired on account of ill health, locating at Union City. He had been married in September, 1861, to Miss Elvira Gwin, a daughter of Jabin and Lorinda (Pease) Gwin. Mrs. Kilbourn was born in Ohio, and in early girlhood accompanied her parents to Wisconsin, whence she came to Michigan about 1849. Unto this marriage have been born a son and daughter: G. E., a resident farmer of Sherwood township; and Annetta, the wife of W. H. Barrett, of Union City.

Mr. Kilbourn is a member of Corbin Post No. 88, G. A. R., in which he has filled nearly all of the offices. He also belongs to the Unitarian Society of Sherwood, and in politics has been a life-long Republican. He has filled the position of justice of the peace and drain commissioner and has held a number of school offices, the cause of education finding in him a warm and stalwart friend, supporting every measure tended to promote the standard of the schools and advance their efficiency. He has lived in Branch county for sixty-eight years, and therefore is well acquainted with its history, having witnessed its development from pioneer times to the present. He has seen all of the evidences of frontier life give way before the advancing civilization and measure of progress, and his sympathies and interests have always been with the line of life that is wrought for permanent good and substantial improvement.

JOHN HENRY BEECH, M. D.

Among the physicians and surgeons who have figured prominently in the history of the medical profession in Branch county was Dr. John Henry Beech, who died in Coldwater, October 17, 1878, when fifty-nine years of age. He was a native of New York, and a son of John and Susan Beech. His father died when comparatively a young man, but the mother survived for many years. She married for her second husband Elihu Mather, and when Dr. Beech came to Branch county Mr. and Mrs. Mather also sought homes in this part of the state.

Dr. Beech, having acquired his preliminary education in the public schools of his native state, afterward entered the Albany (New York) Medical College, from which he was graduated on the completion of the regular course, and on his removal to Coldwater he entered upon the practice of medicine, in which he continued until after the inauguration of the Civil war, when he enlisted in the Union army, becoming a surgeon of the Thirty-fourth Michigan Infantry. When the country no longer needed his aid he returned to his home and practiced in Coldwater and became very prominent in his profession here. It was in answer to a call issued by him that the physicians of this part of the state met at Coldwater and organized the Southern Michigan Medical Society. He always took great interest in the progress made by the medical fraternity and kept in touch with the most advanced thought and methods. His labors were far-reaching and beneficial and he was the loved family physician in many a household. In politics he was a Democrat and his prominence in community affairs is indicated by the fact that he was honored with the mayoralty of Coldwater and with other positions of public



Henry C. Lewis

trust and responsibility. He never faltered in the performance of any duty that devolved upon him nor was dilatory in meeting any obligation that he had incurred either in private life or in citizenship and as a representative resident of Coldwater was widely known.

Dr. Beech was three times married but had no children. His last marriage was with Mrs. Sarah E. Skeels, nee Lewis, and now Mrs. Conant, of whom special mention is made in connection with the personal history of the late H. C. Lewis, who was her brother. For many years Dr. Beech remained a resident of Coldwater, practicing here successfully up to the time of his death. He was a thorough student and was recognized as a learned and skillful physician. He was also esteemed for his generosity and kindness of heart, and he yet lives in the memory of the older citizens whose good fortune it was to know him.

HENRY C. LEWIS.

The career of the gentleman whose name introduces this review was that of a self-made man, reliant and determined, who, though he started out in life in limited financial circumstances, won success through capable and well-directed effort. He was born in Clarendon, Orleans county, New York, May 5, 1820, his parents being William and Sarah Lewis. His early youth was spent in his native state and when a lad of fourteen years he made his way to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he became connected with a grocery house, in which he remained for several years. On the expiration of that period he came to Coldwater and for ten years was engaged in the dry goods business in this city. On selling out he became associated with Clinton B. Fisk in the banking business, but this relation was maintained for only a brief period, after which Mr. Lewis became sole proprietor. Later, however, he admitted Alonzo F. Bidwell and Ives G. Miles to a partnership and successively the firm was known as Lewis & Kellogg and Lewis & Starr. Eventually Mr. Lewis sold his interest, after which he engaged in buying horses for the government. Two years later, in connection with Mr. Starr, he became an organizer of the Coldwater National Bank, of which he was made president, occupying that position up to the time of his death, which occurred August 18, 1884. He thus figured prominently in financial circles in Coldwater, and in the bank of which he was president he instituted a safe, conservative policy that insured it a good patronage and made the investment a profitable one.

In 1846 Mr. Lewis was united in marriage to Miss Alma A. Alden, a daughter of Dr. Hiram Alden. She survived him for several years and died in 1895. Mr. Lewis united with the Baptist church in 1865 and remained one of its consistent members until his demise. In politics he was first a Democrat and afterwards a Republican. Following the close of the Civil war he went abroad and visited England, Ireland, Russia, Germany, France and Spain, and in 1873 he was appointed a commissioner to the Vienna Exposition. Again in 1878 he crossed the Atlantic, this time making his way to Palestine. While on his various visits abroad, being a great lover of art, he collected many valuable pieces of statuary and fine paintings, and near

his beautiful home in Coldwater he erected a suitable building and thereon established the Lewis Art Gallery, wherein were placed his many fine specimens of the works of old masters as well as of the modern artists and sculptors. Subsequent to his death by his bequest this collection became the property of the state and now enriches the art collection of the Michigan University, while the building which he erected is now the home of the Young Men's Christian Association of Coldwater. His private library was given to the Coldwater Public Library. He was a man of beneficent spirit and benevolent purpose, and while he was successful in his business and prominent as a representative of commercial and financial interests here he never allowed accumulation of wealth to in any manner affect his relations with those less fortunate. He stood in his old age just where he did in his younger years—as the champion of all that is right, true and just in man's relation with his fellowmen, recognizing not wealth, which is the most desirable position man can attain.

Mrs. Sarah E. Conant, a sister of Mr. Lewis, was born at Clarendon, Orleans county, New York, December 31, 1825, and was a little child when her father died. In her girlhood days she came with her widowed mother and the other children of the family to Coldwater, and here the mother passed away at the age of sixty-two years. For her first husband she married Nelson D. Skeels, and later became the wife of Dr. J. H. Beech, of whom mention is made above. Her third marriage was to F. H. Conant. She now resides in Coldwater and is held in the highest esteem by a wide acquaintance. She has long been a member of the Presbyterian church, of which she is a generous and liberal supporter. Her life has been that of a consistent Christian woman and her influence is widely felt in church and social circles. Interested in all that promotes the intellectual, social, aesthetic and moral nature of man, she has exerted her influence in behalf of progress along these lines and her efforts have not been without good results. At four score years she is one of the well preserved women of her time.

TRUMAN C. MACK.

Truman C. Mack, who has been a continuous resident of this section since 1854, was born in Florence, Erie county, Ohio, July 23, 1839. His father was Joel Mack, while his mother was Marcia, the adopted daughter of Thomas Ward. Joel Mack and his family went from Pennsylvania to Ohio in 1835, locating in Erie county, where they were among the very earliest settlers. Joel and Marcia Mack were the parents of five children, as follows: Cordelia, a daughter, died in infancy. Joseph died at the age of seven years. Thomas W. Mack is a resident of the village of Girard. Joel Mack is a farmer of Girard township. Truman C. Mack is the subject of this sketch. The husband and father, Joel Mack, died in Erie county, Ohio, at the age of thirty-three years, and after a residence of twenty years in Ohio the wife and mother, Marcia Mack, came to Michigan with her children. She located in Branch county, and having previously married



Mrs Sarah E Conant

Comfort Johnson, in Ohio, they made their home here. Her death occurred in Girard in 1883, when she was seventy-three years of age.

Our subject, Mr. Truman C. Mack, was a lad of but fifteen years of age when he accompanied his mother and brothers from Ohio to Michigan. He had grown up on the farm in Ohio and he followed this vocation after coming to Michigan, and before he was twenty-one years old he had purchased forty-five acres of land in Girard township, to which he later added another forty-five acres. He was married, February 2, 1862, to Miss Mary J. Swan, who has proven a true helpmeet throughout the many years of their wedded life. Mrs. Mack was born in Erie county, Ohio, June 25, 1843, her parents being Constant Merrick Swan and Rachel Johnson Swan, two of Branch county's oldest and most respected pioneers, who still live upon their fine farm in the township of Union. Mr. C. M. Swan was born in Lebanon, Madison county, New York, November 8, 1821, while Mrs. Swan is a native of Elyria, Loraine county, Ohio, where she was born November 9, 1826. They were married in Berlin, Erie county, Ohio, May 29, 1842, and came to Michigan in 1850, locating in Union township on the farm where they have ever since lived. Although he has always owned and operated farms, having cleared up several during his busy life, Mr. Swan has given comparatively little of his attention to agricultural pursuits, he having always been engaged in other enterprises as well. When Mr. and Mrs. Swan came from Ohio to Michigan in 1850 they brought with them a maple sapling which they planted in their front door-yard, and here the tree still stands, a sapling no longer, but a beautiful maple tree with a base measuring over six feet in circumference. This alone is an apt illustration of the growth and development of this section of country during their fifty-five years' residence here. Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Swan were the parents of two daughters, Mrs. T. C. Mack, the wife of our subject, and Lois Swan Walsworth, who died in 1867. Twice during the married life of Mr. and Mrs. Swan have they been participants in family reunions where were five generations of the family, the last occasion of this sort being in June, 1905, the five generations being as follows: Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Swan; their daughter, Mrs. T. C. Mack, wife of our subject; a granddaughter, Mrs. Ella Waite, of Bronson, Michigan; a great-grandson, Mr. Roy Waite, of Chicago; and a great-great-grandson, Mr. Waite's baby son, Arthur Waite. Mr. and Mrs. Swan have led useful and active lives and they are highly esteemed in this vicinity.

Mr. and Mrs. Truman C. Mack are the parents of seven children, all of whom are now married and with homes and families of their own. They are as follows: Ella Mack, born January 1, 1863, was married October 12, 1879, to LaSalle Waite. They live in Bronson and have three children: Roy, Rachel and Ruel. Nettie Mack, born May 12, 1866, was married September 12, 1885, to Frank Vosburgh. Their home is in Union township and they have two children: Platt and Ruby. J. C. Mack, born June 6, 1868, was married June 18, 1888, to Mary Reynolds. They live in Union township and have six children: Bernie, Truman, Claude, Nina, Irene and Lloyd. Lois Mack, born May 20, 1873, was married April 27,

1892, to Archie Cherdavoine. They live near the old homestead and have two children: Lester and Marcia. Maude Mack, born December 11, 1877, was married October 12, 1892, to Jay Cornell, and their home is in New Mexico. Jesse C. Mack, born July 8, 1880, was married January 17, 1900, to Mabel Reynolds. They live in the township of Girard and have two children, Pauline and Marcia. Herbert Mack, born February 5, 1872, was married in 1902 to Sarah Cherdavoine and they live in Battle Creek.

Mr. Mack, although never an offiece seeker, has been director in his school district for several years. His present farm is a fine one, comprising one hundred and twenty acres of fertile land, equipped with good buildings and all of the needful machinery and other accessories for successful operation. Here Mr. and Mrs. Mack have spent many years of their lives and here they have won the regard and high esteem of their friends and neighbors. They have reared and educated their large family of children and have seen them grow to successful manhood and womanhood and now with families of their own. The parents have witnessed and assisted in the development of this section from a comparatively new country to its present prosperous condition, and they have surely performed their whole duty as residents of this prosperous state and county.

FREDERICK HILDEBRAND.

Frederick Hildebrand was born in Germany, in 1839, and was a son of Ernest and Mary Hildebrand, also natives of that country, who in their later years came to America and lived with their children. Their family numbered five sons and four daughters, namely: William and John, both now deceased; Charles, who resides in Reading township, Hillsdale county, Michigan; Louie, a resident of Algansee township; Frederick; Mrs. William Kraus; Mrs. Gottschalk; Mrs. Rohloff, now deceased; and Mrs. Joseph Schultz, a widow, living in Algansee. Their son Frederick spent the days of his boyhood and youth in the country of his nativity, and in 1861, when about twenty-two years of age, crossed the Atlantic to the new world. He did not tarry in the east, but made his way at once to Michigan, settling in Algansee. He then spent two years working as a farm hand by the month for Philander Walbridge and George Briggs, remaining in the employ of each for a year. He afterward secured work on the W. J. Barnes farm in Quincy township, where he lived for a number of years, and during that period, through his industry and economy, he managed to save a sum sufficient to enable him to purchase the Robbins farm on section fifteen, Algansee township, comprising one hundred and twenty acres. Removing to his property he at once began to cultivate the soil and in due course of time harvested rich crops, and as the years brought further prosperity he extended the boundaries of his farm by the additional purchase of one hundred acres.

Frederick Hildebrand was united in marriage to Miss Charlotte Hagerman, who was born in Germany in 1844, and died in 1901, at the age of fifty-seven years. She was a daughter of Ernest and Mary Hagerman, and her mother passed away in the old country, after which the father came to

the United States, where his death occurred in 1876. In his family were three sons and four daughters: William, deceased; Fred, who is living in Quincy township; Charles, deceased; Mrs. Remus, a widow, residing in Detroit; Mrs. Rosenow, deceased; Mrs. Sprunk, who has also passed away; and Mrs. Hildebrand. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Hildebrand were born three children, of whom one died in infancy. The daughter Winnie is the wife of John T. Goodman, a retired farmer, living in Coldwater. The son, Louie F., resides upon the old home farm. The parents are members of the German Lutheran church and Mr. Hildebrand is a stalwart Republican in his political views, having given his support to the party since attaining his majority. He has held minor offices, but has never been ambitious in the sense of office-seeking. Both he and his wife attend church and are worthy people, enjoying in full measure the confidence and good will of those with whom they have come in contact.

Their son, Louie F. Hildebrand, was born on the place where he now resides, in 1870, spent his youth upon a farm and acquired his education in the public schools of the township and in the German school at Coldwater. He always devoted his energies to agricultural pursuits until August, 1905, when he bought property in Coldwater. He was married in 1900 to Miss Mamie Kennedy, who was born in Algansee, in 1876. Her father, Michael Kennedy, was a native of Ireland, and came to the United States at an early day, settling first in Ohio, whence he afterward came to this county, his home being now in Algansee township. At the present writing he is living retired in Coldwater. He wedded Mary Robinson and they had six children, but the first two died in early life. The others are: Lulu, the wife of Lou Wilson, a resident farmer of Algansee; Mrs. Hildebrand; Emma, a saleslady of the B. Branch Mercantile Establishment of Coldwater; and Maggie, at home. In his political views Louie Hildebrand is a Republican and he has a wide acquaintance in the county where he has always lived and where his social qualities, his business worth and progressive citizenship have made him a popular resident.

JULIUS M. BATES.

The attractiveness of Branch county as a place of residence is indicated in the fact that many of her native sons have retained their homes within its borders from birth to the present time, enjoying its privileges and opportunities and adding to its advancement by co-operation in public life and activity in business affairs. Of this class of citizens Julius M. Bates is a representative, being one of the native sons of the county, born on section eighteen, Ovid township, where he still resides. His natal day was September 29, 1854, and he is a son of Joshua M. Bates, who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume. No event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of farm life for our subject in his youth, his attention being divided between the duties of the schoolroom, the pleasures of the playground and the work of the home farm. He mastered the common branches of English learning and also became proficient in the labors of field and meadow as he aided in the raising of grain and stock. The occupation to which he was

reared he has made his life work, and he still lives upon the old farm homestead where in former years he assisted his father in clearing the fields and preparing the land for the plow. Here he has eighty acres, presenting an excellent appearance, for the fields are well tilled and the buildings and fences are kept in good repair.

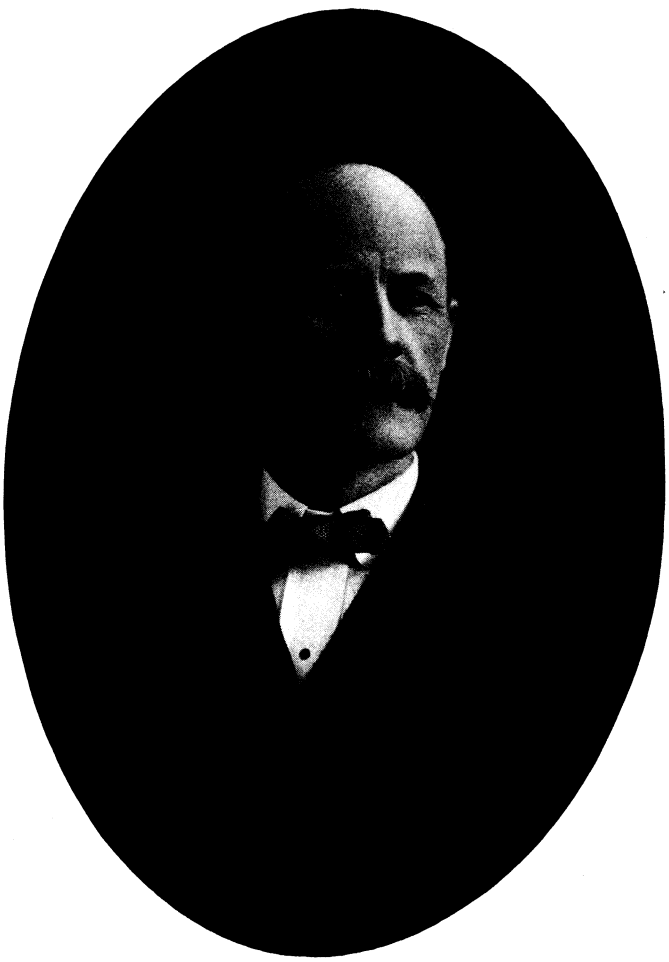
Mr. Bates has been married twice. In January, 1873, he wedded Miss Mary E. Burns, a daughter of Harvey Burns, a farmer of Kalamazoo, Michigan. Mrs. Bates was reared in Ovid township, Branch county, and by her marriage became the mother of a son and daughter, Harvey and Ethel, the latter now the wife of Seth Tompsett. For his second wife Mr. Bates chose Miss Zerniah Cole, a daughter of Reuben Cole, a well-known farmer of Ovid township. She was born in that township in 1867, spent her girlhood days there and was indebted to the public school system for the educational privileges she enjoyed. In 1890 she gave her hand in marriage to Mr. Bates and they are well known and worthy people of the community, having a large circle of warm friends who esteem them highly because of their excellent traits of heart and mind. In March, 1896, they adopted a son, Leslie H. Bates. Mr. Bates votes with the Republican party, keeps in touch with the questions and issues of the day and has twice served as township treasurer. His fraternal relations are with the Masons of Coldwater.

CHARLES PHILIP CONKLIN.

Charles Philip Conklin, assistant postmaster of Coldwater, was born in Huron county, Ohio, near Norwalk, June 6, 1852, his parents being George and Mary E. (Norton) Conklin, the former a native of New York and the latter of Connecticut. The Conklins are of Holland lineage and the progenitor of the family in America was John Conklin, who came from the little Dutch kingdom to the new world and settled in Westchester county, New York. He had two daughters and one son, and one of the daughters became the wife of Hercules Lent, while the other married Isaac Van Wert, one of the three captors of Major Andre, the British spy of the Revolutionary war. The son, John Conklin, married Hannah Storms, also a native of Holland, and a daughter of Gorham Storms of the same country. Her mother, however, was a French Huguenot and her maiden name was Sporama. Unto John Conklin and his wife were born ten children, including Matthew Conklin, whose birth occurred in New York in March, 1746. He was married to Sarah Valentine and they had seven children.

Among this number was Philip Conklin, the grandfather of Charles Philip Conklin of this review. He was born November 15, 1784, and died June 27, 1877. He was married twice, first to Abigail Spofford and second to Susan Amanda Jones. Of the first marriage there were seven children and of the second there were ten. George Conklin, son of the first marriage, was born July 11, 1819, and departed this life March 6, 1891. He was the father of our subject and was married to Mary E. Norton, whose birth occurred August 25, 1824.

The paternal great-grandmother of Charles Philip Conklin was a great-



Chas. P. Conklin

granddaughter of Adam Mott, one of the nine partners who settled Dutchess county, New York, and whose real father was Adam Wallace. He was only three years old when his father, the Rev. Adam Wallace, was burned at the stake in Scotland because he was a Protestant, an account of this being given in the book of martyrs, the event occurring in the reign of Queen Mary about the year 1550. After his martyrdom his widow took her son to England, where she married a Mr. Mott, and thus the lad became known by his stepfather's name. He eventually married and had two sons, Richard and Joseph. The latter marred and his children were Joseph, Jane and Martha. The last named became the wife of James Valentine. One of the children of this marriage was Sarah Valentine, the great-grandmother of Mrs. Conklin.

For some years George and Mary E. Conklin resided in Ohio, making their home there until 1870. In October of that year, however, they became residents of Coldwater, accompanied by their son and only child, Charles Philip Conklin, then nineteen years of age. The father was a farmer by occupation and throughout his entire life engaged in the tilling of the soil in order to provide for his family. His political support was given to the Republican party and he was a faithful and consistent member of the Presbyterian church, in which he held the office of elder. His wife, also a loyal Christian, belonging to the Presbyterian church, survives him and makes her home with her son at the advanced age of eighty-one years.

Charles Philip Conklin was reared upon the home farm and acquired a high school education in Norwalk, Ohio, and in Coldwater, Michigan. In May, 1873, he entered the Coldwater postoffice in the capacity of a clerk, and from one position to another was promoted until in 1882 he became assistant postmaster, a position which he has occupied continuously since, covering a period of twenty-three consecutive years. His political views accord with Republican principles and in matters of citizenship he is progressive, interested in all that pertains to the welfare and upbuilding of his community.

On the 9th of November, 1876, Mr. Conklin was married to Miss Kate Amanda Shaw, who was born at Fulton, New York, January 26, 1856. They had two children, but the younger, Leslie, who was born July 4, 1882, died February 25, 1884. Their surviving son, Ralph Norton, was born June 17, 1879. Mr. and Mrs. Conklin and their son are members of the Presbyterian church, in which he is now serving as a trustee, and he is also identified with the Knights of Pythias fraternity. Having lived in this city since the age of nineteen years he has a wide acquaintance here and the sterling traits of his character are such as have gained for him warm friendship and kindly regard.

E. M. JARDON.

E. M. Jardon, one of the prominent farmers of Batavia township, living on section twenty-two, is a native of Huron county, Ohio, born on the 7th of March, 1837. His father, Edward Jardon, was born in Orange county, New York, and in early manhood removed to Ohio, where he was married to Miss Catharine Lofflan, who was a native of Pennsylvania. They began

their domestic life in Tuscarawas county, subsequently removing to Huron county, and in 1839 became residents of Ashland county, Ohio, where they spent their remaining days, the father passing away at the advanced age of eighty-seven years, and his wife when sixty-five years of age. They were the parents of three children, two daughters and a son.

E. M. Jardon was reared in Ashland county from the age of two years, and when twenty-seven years of age he was married in 1865 to Miss Eliza M. Frey, a daughter of John M. and Lena C. (Lenninger) Frey, who were born in Germany and were married there. Mrs. Jardon was also a native of the fatherland, born May 20, 1840, and was twelve years of age when she came to America with her parents, who located first in Plymouth, Huron county, Ohio, on the boundary line of Richland county.

In the year 1865 Mr. Jardon of this review removed to McHenry county, Illinois, where he remained for one year and then went to Steuben county, Indiana, where he resided for fourteen years, his time being devoted to general farming there. He afterward lived in Crawford county, Ohio, where he spent one year, and in 1881 he came to Branch county, Michigan, settling upon his present farm. Here he has sixty acres of land, which is devoted to the raising of crops best adapted to soil and climate. Everything about his place is neat and thrifty in appearance and he is an enterprising agriculturist, keeping in touch with modern progress in regard to the work of the farm.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Jardon have been born five children: Minnie, now the wife of Harry Bater, of Union township, Branch county; Lena, the wife of Clayton Roberts, of Montpelier, Williams county, Ohio; Cora, the wife of John M. Gray, of Batavia township; and Edna and Ethel, twins. Both received diplomas in the public schools, and they are members of the Ancient Order of Gleaners at Batavia Center. The former is at home, and the latter is engaged in teaching school in Batavia township.

Mr. Jardon has been a life-long Democrat, always supporting the party where national issues are involved, but voting independently at local elections. He has been a resident of Branch county for about twenty-four years and is interested in public affairs, giving active co-operation to many movements for the general welfare. In his farm work he has prospered and is now the possessor of a good property.

STANLEY W. BOYNTON.

Stanley W. Boynton, well-known and successful stock farmer of Quincy township, was born in Wayne county, New York, September 24, 1848. Of ancestry that has been traced to England, his grandfather, George, was a native of Vermont, and his father, Benjamin F. Boynton, was born in Wayne county, New York, and died in this county in 1880, aged fifty-eight years. The father came to Michigan in 1863, and locating on section twenty in Quincy township, where Stanley W. now lives, was there engaged in farming until his death. The old homestead consists of one hundred and eighty acres, and by father and son has been kept up to date and one of the most productive and valuable estates in the township. The father adhered to the

Free Will Baptist faith, and was always a Republican. The wife of Benjamin F. Boynton was Maria Drake, who was born in New Jersey and died in 1885 at the age of sixty-three. She was also a member of the Free Will Baptist church. Of their nine children all died in infancy but two, Stanley W. and Ella, the latter having married three times and being a resident of Oakland, California.

Reared on the old farm in Quincy township and attending the school which stood on an adjoining farm, Mr. Boynton has pursued his successful life career in the surroundings that have been familiar to him from youth up, and through his character for industry and business integrity a well deserved prosperity has rewarded his efforts. He has a beautiful farm residence on the homestead. He feeds a large quantity of live stock, and this is the principal branch of his business.

Mr. Boynton married, first, in 1870, Gertrude Cummings. She was born in Orleans county, New York, a daughter of Alexander and Louisa (Craigan) Cummings, her parents moving to Michigan when she was a child and locating in Calhoun county, where her father was a farmer. She died in 1887, at the age of thirty-five. Mr. Boynton married for his second wife, in 1892, Hermione Ellsworth, who was born in New York state August 28, 1872, a daughter of Mortimer and Louise Sisson Ellsworth. Her parents came to Michigan and settled first at Adrian, and the father is still living; the mother died at Lincoln, Nebraska, January 26, 1885. Mrs. Boynton is the second of five children, her brothers and sisters being: William, a stationary engineer at Three Rivers, Michigan; Mary, the wife of Guy Hurley, in the Wolverine Cement Works at Quincy; Norman, an engineer at Three Rivers; and Pearl, wife of John Goodrich, a dairyman at Lincoln, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Boynton's only child, C. Bernice, was born in 1895 and died in 1902. Mrs. Boynton is a member of the Baptist church, and he is affiliated with the Masonic order, Mt. Vernon Lodge No. 166. He and his wife are members of the Eastern Star, No. 12, and she is past worthy matron. A Republican in politics, he has held township offices and stands high in his community.

E. F. GAMBLE, M. D.

Dr. E. F. Gamble, engaged in the practice of medicine in Coldwater, is a native of Tecumseh, Michigan, born on the 12th of May, 1866. His parents were F. W. and Maria (Gray) Gamble, the former a native of Enniskillen, Ireland, while the latter was born in Tecumseh, Michigan.

Dr. Gamble was reared and educated in the place of his nativity, completing his literary course there by study in the high school. Determining upon the practice of medicine and surgery as a life work he then entered the homeopathic medical department of the Michigan State University at Ann Arbor and was graduated with the class of 1892. He supplemented his collegiate training by six months' experience in Grace hospital and then located for practice in Wellsboro, Indiana, where he was also surgeon for the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company and the Chicago & Grand Trunk Railroad Company for about two and a half years, after which he was located

in Winona, Minnesota, for eighteen months, and in 1897 came to Coldwater, where he has since engaged in practice. A liberal patronage has been accorded him in recognition of his ability in the line of his profession, and in his practice he displays thorough understanding of the principles of medicine and a ready adaptability of his knowledge to the case in question. He is secretary of the Branch County Pension Examining Board, and is examiner for various life insurance companies and lodges.

Dr. Gamble was married in Tecumseh, October 16, 1893, to Miss Elida DeMere James, a daughter of Alfred and Mary (White) James. They now have two sons: Alfred F. and Lytton D. Dr. and Mrs. Gamble have a large circle of friends in Coldwater, their intelligence and worth gaining them the entry into the best homes of the city. His political support is cast with the Democratic party and he takes an active interest in its affairs, but has never been an aspirant for office, preferring to give undivided attention to his professional duties.

MRS. E. R. G. PARADINE.

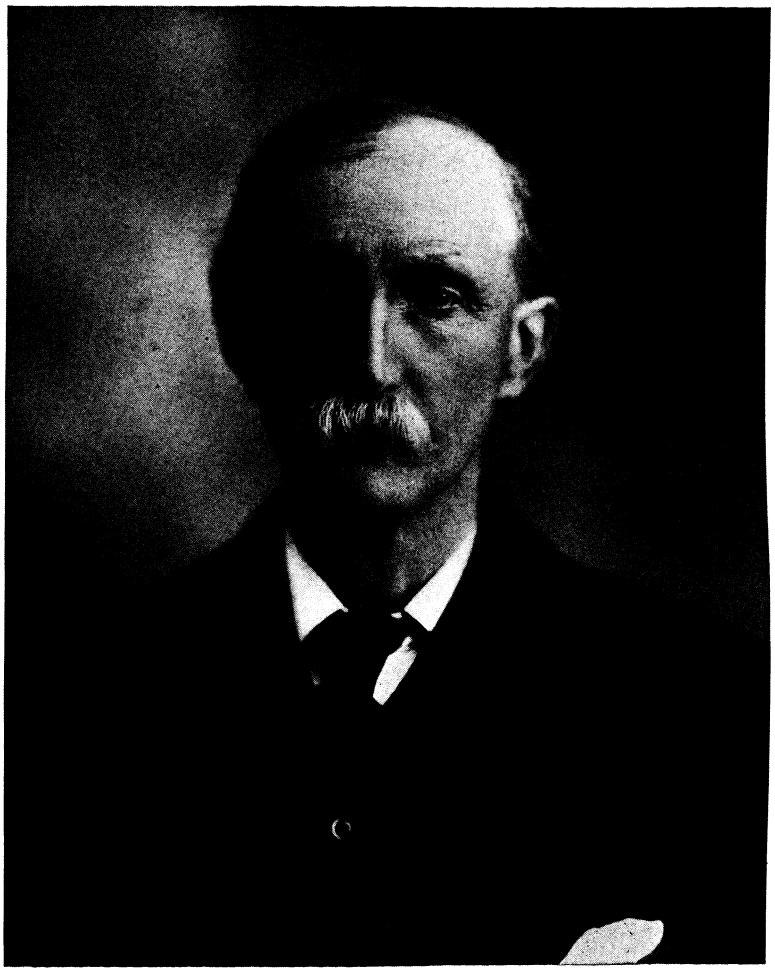
Mrs. E. R. G. Paradine, well known in Coldwater, was born in Hillsdale county, Michigan, March 14, 1841. Her father was Orson Randall, who was born in Yates county, New York, August 25, 1807, and came to Branch county, Michigan, in 1844, locating in Coldwater township, where he was engaged in farming. He was married September 15, 1833, to Miss Laura Gilbert, a native of Connecticut, and they became the parents of five children, of whom Mrs. Paradine is the fourth in order of birth. Her father continued to make farming his life work and for many years was a leading agriculturist of Branch county, his death occurring in the city of Coldwater, 1890. Mrs. Paradine was only about three years old when she came to Branch county, where she was reared and educated. She first married Wenzel Gruner on the 25th of August, 1858. He was born in Reichenburg, Germany, September 28, 1831, and in 1848 or 1849 came to America and lived five years in New York state and then located in Michigan and became a well-to-do farmer. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Gruner were born the following named: Mina L., deceased; Mary K., the wife of William Mitchell of Coldwater; Edna E., the wife of S. T. Vesey of La Grange, Indiana; Ward C., a resident farmer of Branch county; Benjamin S., who is a telegraph operator in Alabama; Bartlett, a merchant living in Mount Pleasant, Michigan; and Starr W., a farmer of Coldwater township. All were born upon the old family homestead in Coldwater township—the farm upon which the father located when he first came to Michigan. Mr. Gruner died April 15, 1885, and February 3, 1897, Mrs. Gruner was united in marriage to William W. Paradine, who was born in England in 1837, and came to the United States in 1856, and in 1860 to Branch county. His life has been that of a farmer.

GEORGE A. TUTTLE.

George A. Tuttle, who for fifty years has been a resident of Branch county, is now engaged in farming on section eighteen, Batavia township. His birth occurred in Marshall county, Indiana, on the 26th of October,



Mrs. S. A. Tuttle.



G. A. Tuttle

1849, his parents being Major and Eliza (Ramsay) Tuttle. The father, a native of Connecticut, removed from New England to New York, and afterward took up his abode in Indiana, locating at Michigan City. He afterward settled in Marshall county, living there when the Indians were numerous, his attention being given to the cultivation and development of a farm. In 1856 he came to Branch county, this state, settling in Batavia township, where he purchased what was known as the Rogers farm. On selling that place he bought the Fowler farm and he gave the land upon which the church in the locality now stands. At a later date he sold his property and bought the Jones farm in Coldwater township, remaining there for two years, when he sold out and became the possessor of the farm upon which his son George A. now resides. There he spent his remaining days, reaching the very venerable age of eighty-four years. He was the oldest Mason of Michigan who was initiated in the order in this state. Mr. Tuttle was four times married, his first union being with Charlotte Barber, by whom he had four children: Timothy and Orson, both deceased; Sarah M.; and Levi, who has also passed away. For his second wife he chose Eliza Ramsey, and George A. Tuttle is the only child of this marriage. For his third wife he won Mrs. Comings, and Mrs. Lucinda Brown became his fourth wife. There was one daughter by that marriage, Arabelle, now deceased. George A. Tuttle and his sister Sarah are the only surviving ones of the family.

When about eight years of age George A. Tuttle was brought to Michigan and in the public schools he acquired his education. He remained with his parents until their death, was reared to the occupation of farming and became thoroughly familiar with the duties and labors of field and meadow at an early age. On the 27th of October, 1892, he was married to Miss Mary Sindlinger, a daughter of John and Caroline (Dingler) Sindlinger, and a native of Burr Oak township, St. Joe county. Two sons have been born of this marriage, Glen and Mark, both of whom are in school.

Mr. Tuttle is the owner of one hundred acres of well improved land, the fields being richly cultivated and yielding good harvests for the care and labor bestowed upon them. He has been a resident of Branch county for almost fifty years and has been identified with its interests in a helpful degree, contributing to the success of those movements which are a matter of public pride. In politics he has always been an earnest Republican and has served as director of schools and at the same time is moderator. He is well known in the county, and his genuine worth has won him friendly recognition from all with whom he has come in contact. He belongs to the First Congregational church at Matteson, has taken an active interest in its work, serving as its treasurer and one of its trustees and as an earnest worker in the Sunday-school. Mrs. Tuttle is a member of the German Lutheran church.

ROBERT FRASER, M. D.

Dr. Robert Fraser, whose capability in his profession ranks him with the leading members of the medical fraternity in Branch county, is perhaps the oldest physician in years of continuous practice in this part of the state,

having for thirty-five years followed his chosen calling in Sherwood. He is also well known as a leader in the ranks of the People's party in this locality. He was born in Canada, May 8, 1842, and is a son of William Fraser, a native of Scotland. He was reared and educated in the land of the hills and heather, whence he came to America at the age of twenty-five years. He established his home in Canada, where he was married to Miss Christina Gunn, a native of that country. He died at the age of fifty-five years, while his wife passed away at the age of seventy-five years. They had a son and daughter, of whom Dr. Fraser is the elder.

Having mastered the common branches of English learning, Dr. Fraser continued his studies in the Bradford high school, of Canada, and was graduated from the medical department of the Victoria University, in the class of 1865. The same year he came to the United States, settling first in New York, where he remained for five years. In March, 1870, he arrived in Sherwood, where he has since made his home. Desirous of obtaining still greater proficiency in the line of his profession he entered the American Electrical Medical College in 1875, and was graduated in 1876. He did not cease his study even then, but has always been an interested observer of the progress of the medical fraternity, keeping in touch with its advancement through reading and investigation. He has now practiced in Sherwood for thirty-five years and is a beloved family physician in many a household, a cheery manner and ready sympathy, as well as his scientific knowledge, making him one of the capable practitioners of Branch county.

In 1871 Dr. Fraser was married to Miss Jennie Coleman, who was born and reared in Canada. They had two children, but Everton died at the age of eight years. The surviving son, Dr. Robert Carson Fraser, is a graduate of the Detroit Medical College, and is now practicing in Detroit, Michigan.

Dr. Fraser of this review is a Democrat. He was the first president of the village of Sherwood after its incorporation, and filled that office for several terms. He was also a candidate for congress on the People's ticket, and has taken an active part in politics, being deeply interested in the great questions which affect the welfare of the country, as well as in the local political work. He never fails to attend the county conventions, and his opinions carry weight in the local councils of his party.

Dr. Fraser has a good home in Sherwood and an excellent farm of eighty acres in Sherwood township. He has never regretted his determination to seek a home in the United States, with its livelier competition and advancement more quickly secured, and in a profession where individual merit is all that counts, he has won for himself an enviable position, his practice being as large as that of any physician in the county.

ST. MARY'S PARISH.

A few Polish families settled in Bronson, Michigan, in 1861, and at once formed themselves into a little band of worshipers, holding services at the home of James Cunningham, but at first without a priest. In 1863 St. Mary's Parish was organized by Rev. F. X. Schulack, a Jesuit Father,

and in 1865, through his efforts, their first church was built on the south side of the railroad, and for a period of fifteen years he was in charge. Then for four years, until 1884, the church was attended by Rev. Father Charles Korst of Coldwater. The first resident priest St. Mary's had was the Rev. Father Francis Krol. At the end of six years he was succeeded by Father Schulack, who remained until 1892. Then came Father John Lemke, whose death occurred at the end of ten months of service here. Father Casimer Rochowski succeeded him, and was pastor until 1899. The next six months Father Bernard Smijewski presided over the parish, and in September, 1899, came Rev. Father John Bernard Hewelt, who has since been in charge, and to whose efforts is largely due the success of the parish.

The present church and school buildings of St. Mary's each occupy a ground space of one hundred and forty by three hundred feet. The fine church edifice, erected on the ashes of the second church building, is one hundred and twenty by forty-eight feet in dimensions and cost twelve thousand dollars, with an additional cost of eleven thousand dollars for furnishings. It was built by popular subscription. The interior decoration of this church is the most noted of its kind in the State of Michigan, the painting having been done by an artist from Rome.

St. Mary's School, erected in 1900, during the pastorate of Father Hewelt, is eighty-eight by seventy-eight feet, and was built at a cost of twenty-four thousand dollars. From six to ten teachers are employed, and regular courses of study up to the twelfth grade are offered; also typewriting, stenography, music and art needle work are taught. The largest contributor to the building fund of the school was Cicero Holmes.

Father Hewelt is a native of Prussia and was born in 1863, a descendant of an old noble family. His education was begun in Germany. In 1870 he was taken to Paris, thence to England and Ireland, and in 1880 he came to the United States, where his studies were continued with the priesthood in view. He was ordained in 1891 in the cathedral at Detroit. His work at St. Mary's has been characterized by enthusiastic and untiring energy and has been fruitful to a marked degree.

THADDEUS FOLLETT.

Thaddeus Follett, who, carrying on agricultural pursuits, resided in California township, was born in Cayuga county, Ohio, on the 3rd of November, 1861. His father, Reuben T. Follett, was born in Dover, Ohio, on the 15th of August, 1822, and there resided until forty-one years of age, when he came to Michigan, settling in Butler township, Branch county, where for two years he owned and cultivated a farm. He then removed to California township, where he purchased one hundred and sixty-four acres of land on section six, and as he prospered in his work he increased his acreage until his farm, at the time of his death, comprised two hundred and forty-four acres of rich and productive land. His father, Daniel Follett, was a native of Connecticut and in an early day went to Ohio, where he died in 1848. While living in the Buckeye state, Reuben Follett was married

in Cleveland on the 25th of November, 1852, to Miss Julia E. Kelley, who was born in that city October 15, 1832, and was a daughter of William Kelley, who was born near Rochester, New York, and afterward resided in Cleveland, Ohio, where he died in 1839, while his wife passed away in 1840. In their family were eight children, Mrs. Follett being the only one now living. Unto Reuben Follett and his wife were born eight children, and, with one exception, all yet survive, Eva having died at the age of sixteen years. The living members of the family are: Mrs. Emma Thompson, who resides in California township; Charles, who is living in Algansee; Mrs. Lucy Corless, of Ovid; Thaddeus, of this review; Mrs. Nettie Bovee, of Chicago; Mrs. Alta Mitchell, living in Dover, Ohio; Mrs. Birdie Corless, a resident of LaGrange, Georgia. The father followed farming both in Ohio and in Michigan, and he cleared much of his land, on which he made good improvements and erected substantial buildings, thus developing one of the excellent farms of his neighborhood. In his social relations he was a Blue Lodge Mason, and in his political views was a Democrat. He and his wife were attendants on the services of the Presbyterian church. He was an intelligent farmer and esteemed citizen, and his efforts in behalf of public progress were of direct good.

Thaddeus Follett, whose name introduces this review, always lived upon the home farm, and throughout his entire life has carried on general agricultural pursuits. He acquired a common school education and in the periods of vacation worked in the fields. He now carries on general farming and also raises good horses. He owns one hundred and sixty-four acres of land on the old homestead, where he is now living with his mother. He married Nellie M. Allen, of Coldwater, and they have one son, Allen T. Follett, who was born May 5, 1895.

Mr. Follett belongs to several fraternal organizations, including the Odd Fellows society in California township, the Masonic lodge in Kinderhook, and the Modern Woodmen camp in California township. He is an independent voter and has been a member of the township board of review and also school district moderator. He is recognized as a prosperous young farmer and is a man of affairs, who has ever been a keen observer, is well read and is informed upon all matters of general interest.

ISAAC BENNETT.

Isaac Bennett, a pioneer Michigan Methodist minister, was born on Bacon Ridge, Ross township, Jefferson county, Ohio, April 22, 1810. He was the son of James and Lydia Bennett. His grandfather, Isaac Bennett, was a member of the Pennsylvania Militia, and his grandfather, Ludwig Hardenbrook, was a soldier of the Revolutionary war. Several of his uncles were soldiers of the war of 1812 to 1815. His grandfather Hardenbrook and his own parents were Presbyterians. When thirteen years of age his father moved west to Morrow county, Ohio. When twenty years of age Isaac Bennett attended a Methodist campmeeting near Mt. Gilead, Ohio, and was converted and united with the Methodist church. In 1832 he was licensed to preach, Russell Bigelow signing the license as presiding elder.



Rev. Isaac Bennett

In 1832 he was married to Miss Eleanor Barrickman, who died three years later, leaving in his care two children.

At the organization of the Michigan conference held at Mansfield, Ohio, in 1836, he was admitted on trial and ordained a deacon by Bishop Soule, and in 1838 he was ordained an elder by Bishop Waugh. In 1838 he was married to Mrs. Nancy McNaught Hill, widow of George Hill. His itinerant life began in 1834, when he was employed as a supply on Mt. Gilead circuit. In 1836 he was appointed to St. Mary's Mission, Maumee district, western Ohio, this mission including all of Mercer, Van Wert and parts of Allen and Putnam counties in Ohio, and two appointments in Allen county, Indiana.

In 1837 Isaac Bennett's work began in Michigan, his appointments being in succession, Shiawassee circuit, Ingham mission, Eaton mission, Albion circuit, Litchfield, Coldwater, Manchester, Burlington, Litchfield again, South Albion, Parma and Eaton Rapids, Flat River, Ionia, Grand Rapids (Westside, afterwards Second Street), Lamont, Edwardsburg, Paw Paw, Cassopolis, Allen, Girard, Quincy, Reading, Butler and Kinderhook. At the Conference held at Jackson, in 1872, he was superannuated; forty years from the time he was licensed to preach, and thirty-six years from the time he became a member of the Conference.

Shiawassee circuit embraced all of Shiawassee, Clinton, and parts of Eaton, Genesee, Livingston and Oakland counties. This mission extended west and east as they traveled seventy-five miles, and forty miles north and south; a four weeks' circuit, thirty-five appointments, he and his colleague, Washington Jackson, each preaching eight sermons and traveling one hundred miles per week on an average for the year, making over five thousand miles travel. The larger portion of the settlement of this region began in 1836, there being few roads of any kind. They traveled on horseback and afoot by Indian trails, and blazed trees for guides from place to place, fording the streams.

In 1838 he moved his family from Ohio to Michigan, a distance of three hundred miles, through a sparsely settled country, three weeks of continuous travel. When they arrived at their destination it was almost impossible to find a house. At last they heard of a log cabin in Vernon township, in a small clearing surrounded by woods, and no neighbors near. They moved into this, and as they had brought but little with them, and had no money to buy with, he borrowed tools and made his furniture of boxes and young saplings, thus beginning his home life in Michigan. His work called him from home, and necessarily his wife and little ones were alone most of the time. Days would come and go, then perhaps a white man or an Indian would pass by. The settlement was new, people poor, and sometimes food was hard to get; preachers and other pioneers suffered all the hardships alike. With the exception of the clay and mud in Ohio, the St. Mary's and Shiawassee mission were practically the same; Ingham mission work was the same, but conditions were better. In Albion circuit, second year, Allen Staples was his colleague. This year at their meetings several hundred were converted, and between four and five hundred united with the Methodist

church, many joining other churches. Litchfield circuit in 1844-5 included Jonesville, Allen and Reading in Hillsdale county, and Butler, Quincy, Algansee and California in Branch county. Coldwater included Quincy, Gilead and Girard. Burlington circuit embraced Tekonsha and Lion Lake in Calhoun county, Union City and Bronson in Branch county, and Colon in St. Joseph county. Thus it will be seen that Isaac Bennett's work as minister extended the entire length and breadth of Branch county fifty-five and sixty years ago. During his retirement he was active in local church work as preacher and class leader.

He was the father of seven children. Two died in childhood. His oldest son, Simeon, located in Kansas and was known as a free soiler. He died in 1859. His stepson, William Hill, died in Chicago in 1870, and was buried in Quincy, Michigan. George, the oldest son by his second marriage, was a volunteer soldier in the Civil war, and died in West Virginia, October 25, 1873, and was buried in Quincy.

May 20, 1886, Isaac Bennett lost his best and dearest friend, one who had been his comrade and counsellor, one who had shared with him all his hardships and trials of an itinerant's and pioneer's life, who had stood by his side in sickness and death, and in the darkest hours had been the one that he could always turn to for comfort and sympathy—his wife. She bade him "good-bye" and promised to meet with him across the river. They laid her away by the side of her boys in Lake View Cemetery. March 6, 1890, his daughter, Eleanor Hendee, died in Jackson county, Michigan, and was brought home and buried by the side of her mother.

Isaac Bennett cast his first vote for General Jackson and was known as a Democrat until 1854. In his pocket journal he wrote, "Thursday, July 6, 1854. To-day I attended a political meeting at Jackson to consolidate political parties against the encroachment of slavery. Meeting harmonious. Candidates for state officers were nominated." That was the celebrated convention held "Under the Oaks" at Jackson, Michigan, when they organized and gave the name "Republican" to the new party. Forever afterwards he was known as a Republican.

In January, 1899, he complained of a pain in his breast and side. This was the forerunner of his final sickness and death. February 20, a spasm of his heart told him of his condition, he realized that his hour had come and the sands of life were running low. He said to those who were in the room, "I have no time to talk with each one of you, I will pray for you," thus closing his life's work, pleading that those who stood by his side might be permitted to meet with him in Heaven.

The oldest member of the Michigan Conference had passed away and was buried by the side of his wife and children, leaving surviving him two children, Sarah and Hiram.

J. M. GRAY.

J. M. Gray, energetic and enterprising, has displayed in his business life those qualities which always eventually win success, and that his fellow townsmen regard him as capable of controlling public affairs is shown by the

fact that he has been chosen by popular suffrage to the office of township clerk. He was born August 19, 1875, on the farm on section twenty-three, Batavia township, where he now resides, and he represents an old New England family. His father, John M. Gray, was a native of New York, having been born in Westfield township, Schenectady county, on the 29th of September, 1827. He came to Branch county in the '60s and he took up his abode in Batavia township on the farm which is now owned and occupied by J. M. Gray. For twenty-one years he was a sailor on the Great Lakes, having followed that pursuit prior to the establishment of a home in Branch county. Here he turned his attention to general agricultural pursuits, which claimed his time and energies throughout his remaining days. In his political views he was a Democrat in early life, but after taking up his abode in Batavia township he became a Republican and was elected and served for some years as justice of the peace, his decisions being characterized by an impartiality that won him high encomiums from the general public. He was also director of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company and was a member of the Masonic fraternity. He married Mrs. Julia A. (Phelps) Flint, who was born in Wyoming county, New York, on the 18th of March, 1837, and was reared in the place of her nativity. She is still living and resides with her son, J. M. Gray, but the husband and father passed away on the 22d of March, 1898, being then in his seventy-first year. In the family were seven children, namely: James R., Nellie, Charles, Elizabeth, Frank, Lydia and John M.

In taking up the personal history of John M. Gray we present to our readers the life record of one who is widely and favorably known in this part of the state. His youth was uneventful, being passed in the usual manner of farm lads of the period upon the place where he yet resides. He worked in the fields through the summer months and acquired his elementary education in the district schools, while later he attended the Metropolitan Business College at Chicago for six months. Upon his return home he took charge of the farm which he now owns and has since given unfaltering attention to its cultivation and improvement.

On the 28th of July, 1897, Mr. Gray was married to Miss Cora Jardon, a daughter of E. M. and Elsie (Frey) Jardon, the father a native of Ohio. She was only five years of age when she came to Michigan with her parents, who settled in Branch county. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Gray have been born four sons: Clare, Lester, Forest and Starr (deceased). Mr. Gray is a Republican, who has always kept well informed on the questions and issues of the day, and greatly desires the success of his party. He was elected township clerk in April, 1905, and is discharging the duties of that office in addition to the supervision of his business interests. He was president of the Batavia Creamery, and is now treasurer, and his farm comprises eighty acres of land, which is devoted to the cultivation of various cereals. Having lived all of his life in Batavia township he has a wide acquaintance, and the active part which he has taken in public affairs has extended his circle of acquaintance and gained for him the merited regard of his fellow townsmen.

DE WITT C. SPROUT.

DeWitt C. Sprout, owner of Maple Villa, on section twenty-four, Quincy township, where he has two hundred and twelve acres of valuable farming land, was born in Sandusky county, Ohio, in 1860. His father, John Sprout, was a native of Knox county, Ohio, and was of German-Scotch ancestry. The paternal grandfather, Samuel Sprout, removed from his native state of Pennsylvania to Ohio, and there John Sprout was reared to the occupation of farming, which he made his life work, raising both grain and stock. He was a Republican in his political views and in religious faith was connected with the United Brethren church. He married Catherine Shilling, who was born in Seneca county, Ohio, and was of German lineage, her parents, Andrew and Mary Shilling, being natives of the fatherland. Mrs. Sprout was also a member of the United Brethren church, and her death occurred in 1896, when she was sixty-one years of age, while Mr. Sprout departed this life on the 27th of February, 1905, when in his seventy-first year. They were the parents of two sons, the other being Ulysses S. Sprout, now residing in Seneca county, Ohio.

DeWitt C. Sprout, reared upon the home farm, pursued his early education in the district schools and afterward continued his studies in Heidelberg College, at Tiffin, Ohio, and in the academy at Fostoria, Ohio. He engaged in teaching in the country schools for ten terms and through the summer months devoted his energies to farming pursuits. He has always carried on the work of tilling the soil, and in March, 1905, he removed to Michigan, purchasing the Brainard and Babcock farm, known as Maple Villa, on section twenty-four, Quincy township. He has two hundred and twelve acres of land and is extensively engaged in breeding and feeding stock. His is one of the best improved properties of the locality, the buildings upon his place having been erected at a cost of five thousand dollars.

In 1885 Mr. Sprout was married to Miss Lillie V. Byers, who was born in Seneca county, Ohio, in 1864, her parents being Jeremiah and Sarah (Kimes) Byers. Her father was a pioneer settler of Seneca county, Ohio, and followed the occupation of farming, and Mrs. Sprout was the eldest of their three children, the others being: William, who is living in Girard township; and Dora, the deceased wife of Frank Groves. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Sprout have been born four children: Emerson J., born in 1886; Cora, in 1893; Clarence, in 1890; and Bruce, in 1896. The parents hold membership in the United Brethren church, and Mr. Sprout gives his political allegiance to the Republican party. He has conducted business interests of considerable extent and importance, and although his residence in Branch county has been of brief duration he has become well known as one of the leading representatives of its stock-raising interests.

HARLOW W. WILLIAMS.

From the age of ten years Harlow W. Williams has been a resident of Coldwater. Almost seventy years have come and gone since that time and great changes have occurred within this period as the county has emerged

from pioneer conditions to take its place as the center of an advanced civilization. Log cabins have given place to commodious and attractive homes, churches and schools have been built, business enterprises introduced and the land has been converted from a wild tract into richly productive fields. Mr. Williams has not only witnessed all this change, but has taken an active part in the development of the county, and his labors have resulted beneficially for the community.

A native of the Empire state, Mr. Williams was born in Royalton township, Niagara county, New York, April 16, 1826. His father, Elisha Williams, was a native of Massachusetts and was there reared. In early life he learned the trade of a hatter, cooper and carpenter and joiner and shoemaker and he was naturally a mechanic, so that he was well qualified to do various kinds of labor. He was married in Massachusetts to Siba Parmalee, a native of Connecticut, and they located in Victor, Ontario county, New York, whence they afterward removed to Royalton, Niagara county, and later to Erie county. The year 1836 witnessed their removal to Coldwater. They reached their destination on the 11th of October, and Mr. Williams assisted largely in building up the town. Being a carpenter and joiner, he erected some of the first houses in this place and contributed in substantial measure to the growth and development of the city. He lived to be eighty-three years of age, while his wife passed away when about fifty-five years of age. They were the parents of eight children, four sons and four daughters, all of whom reached adult age, married and reared families of their own.

Harlow W. Williams, the youngest of the family and the only one now living, was but ten years of age when he came to Branch county, locating with his parents in Coldwater. Here he was reared, acquiring his education in the pioneer schools of the village. His mother died when he was but fifteen years of age, and he then started out in life on his own account, working at anything which he could get to do. He followed both carpentering and coopering, also did painting and other work, for he seemed to have inherited his father's natural mechanical ingenuity, and was also instructed by him in various branches of labor. He began contracting when a young man, and his life of intense activity continued through many years, but now he is enjoying a well earned rest.

On the 11th of August, 1846, Mr. Williams was united in marriage to Miss Louisa Carter, a daughter of Benoni and Hannah (Mansfield) Carter, and a native of Monroe county, New York. Her birth occurred in Penfield, October 28, 1830. In the year in which their marriage occurred, Mr. and Mrs. Williams located in Quincy, where he engaged in carpentering as a contractor and builder. He lived in that city for about fifteen years, and in Butler for ten years, making his home on the farm and at the same time continuing his building operations. In 1872 he became overseer of the county farm, which position he filled until 1877, when he was appointed superintendent of the poor by the board of supervisors, and acted in that capacity for three years. He was chairman of the board, and in the discharge of his official duties he was ever prompt, faithful and reliable. In

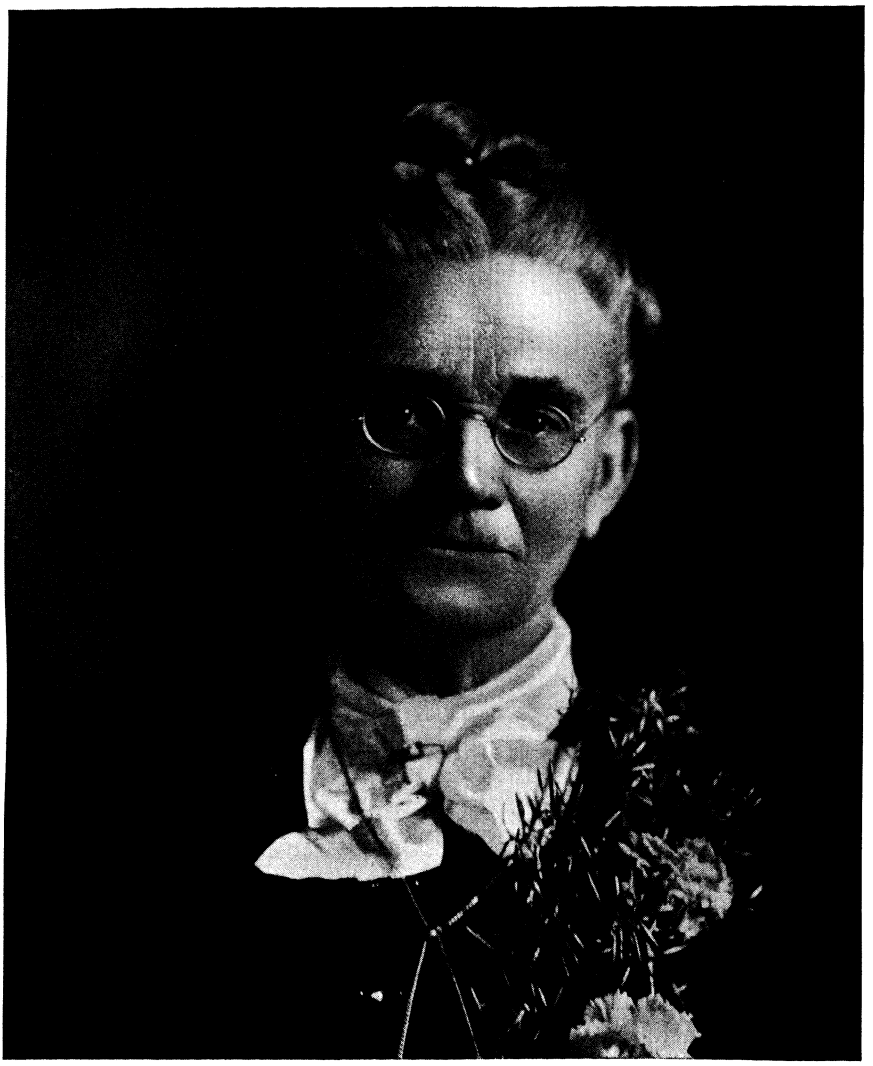
1877 he took up his abode again in Coldwater, where he now resides, living retired at the present time. He has contributed in large measure, however, to the substantial improvement of the county, which he has seen developed from its primitive condition. He has erected many school houses and residences and has built many bridges. He has put up a number of houses in Coldwater for himself, selling them on the installment plan, and at one time he was also engaged in the livery business here. He has likewise had other interests, and in the control of his varied business affairs he has shown keen discrimination, strong executive ability and unbounded perseverance. Now in possession of a handsome competence, acquired through his well directed labors, he is enjoying a rest which is richly merited.

In his political views Mr. Williams has always been a staunch Republican since the organization of the party, and has held a number of local offices. He was supervisor of Butler township until he resigned, and was treasurer of Quincy township for about two years. He has always been interested in public affairs, and his labors have been resultant factors in promoting the welfare and growth of this part of the state, where he has now lived for a period of sixty-nine years. His acquaintance is wide and he enjoys the respect of young and old, rich and poor.

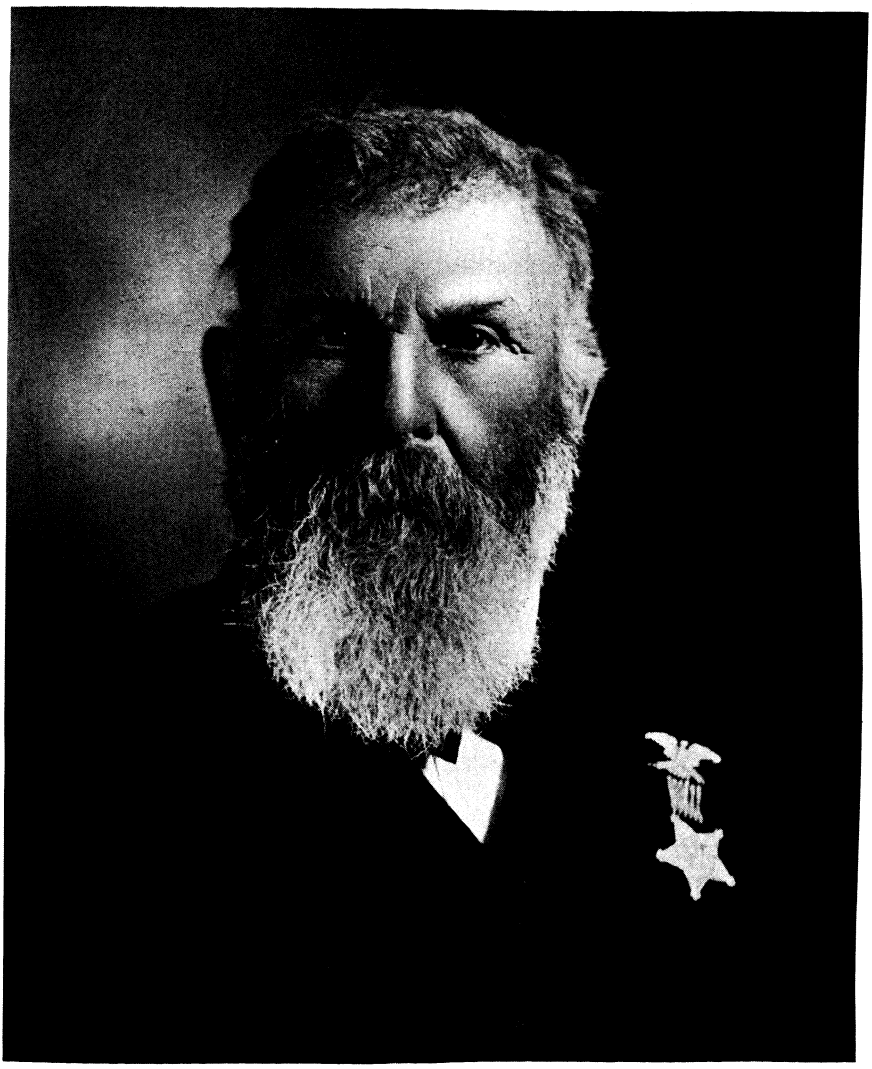
FRANK E. KNAPP.

Frank E. Knapp, superintendent of the public schools at Quincy, was born in Coldwater township, Branch county, Michigan, in 1867, and is of German and Irish descent. His father, Reuben Knapp, was born in Greenville, Ohio, while his grandfather was also a native of that state, and was of German lineage. About 1861 Mr. Knapp came to Branch county and he wedded his wife in Greenville, Ohio. He also resided in Texas for a short time. He married Cordelia Houghn, a native of Greenville, Ohio, and of Irish lineage. Mr. Knapp died in the fall of 1893, at the age of seventy years, while his wife passed away in 1875, at the age of thirty-five years. In their family were three children, of whom Frank E. is the second. Martin L., the eldest, is now foreman in railroad car shops in Indian Territory, and Stephen C. is associated with his brother Martin.

Frank E. Knapp acquired his education in the district schools and in the Quincy Union school, and also attended the Michigan State Normal College, Benton Harbor College and the Michigan State University, at Ann Arbor. In order to educate himself and provide the funds necessary for his academic and college work he taught in different schools in Branch county, his first important appointment in that direction being at Camden, Michigan, where he remained for two years. He afterward acted as principal of the schools at Pittsford, Michigan, for six years, and subsequently went to White Pigeon, where he was superintendent of schools for two years. In the fall of 1900 he came to Quincy and has since been at the head of the Educational Society of this place, now having eight teachers under his supervision. The schools are carefully graded, the work systematized and the standard of public instruction is being continually raised, owing to Professor Knapp's intense zeal and interest in the work.



Mrs Lucinda Ballew



Samuel Bates

In 1888 was celebrated the marriage of Professor Knapp and Miss Cora H. Allen, a daughter of Charles M. and Mary J. Allen. Her father is a resident farmer of this county, and Mrs. Knapp was born in Reading township in 1873. There are two children of this marriage: Ione Ernestine and Edward Allen. Professor and Mrs. Knapp are prominent and valued members of the Presbyterian church, in which he is serving as superintendent of the Sabbath school. He is also high priest of Quincy chapter, No. 115, R. A. M., and belongs to the Knights of Pythias fraternity and the Maccabees lodge. In politics he is a Republican, is serving as a member of the board of school examiners in Branch county and is a member of both the County and State Teachers' Associations. He has become well known as a capable educator and has made consecutive advancement in his profession, having contributed in a large degree to the improvement of the public school system in territories where he has been employed.

SAMUEL BATER.

Samuel Bater is numbered among the early settlers of Branch county and now devotes his attention to general agricultural pursuits on section twenty-three, Batavia township, where he owns and operates one hundred and twenty-five acres, constituting a finely improved farm. He may truly be called a self-made man, for in his youth he was empty-handed and had to depend entirely upon his labor and capable management for the success that he is now enjoying as the years have gone by. His farm therefore is the visible evidence of a life of thrift and industry.

Mr. Bater was born in Devonshire, England, on Christmas day, 1837, his parents being William and Mary (Cochram) Bater, who were also natives of England, where they spent their entire lives, the father devoting his energies to farming in order to provide for his family. He died at the age of seventy years, while his wife was about eighty years of age at the time of her demise. In their family were four sons and three daughters, all of whom reached adult age, while four of the number came to America. Samuel Bater is the fourth in order of birth, and he remained in his native country until sixteen years of age. His educational privileges were limited, for when a youth of eight years he left school and also left home in order to provide for his own support. He worked in England for six cents per day. Realizing it would be with great difficulty he could make a living and gain a competence in that country he resolved to try his fortune in America and when sixteen years of age crossed the Atlantic to the new world to enjoy its greater privileges and opportunities. He landed at Quebec, Canada, and thence made his way to Rochester, New York, after which he spent about two years in Batavia, that state. On the second day of his residence there he earned five shillings as a result of his day's labor. The first year he was in America he worked for ten dollars per month, which seemed a princely sum in comparison with the wage that he had earned in his native land. He hired out by the month to John Moore, and with him went to Jonesville, Michigan, in 1855. In 1859 he came to Coldwater, where he worked at the mason's

trade or at anything that he could get to do. He assisted in the construction of many business blocks in Coldwater and also worked on the building of the first large school house of that city.

Mr. Bater had been a resident of Coldwater for only a brief period when he sought a companion and helpmate for life's journey, and on the 31st of December, 1860, he was married to Miss Lucinda Stafford, a daughter of Hosea B. and Lura (Wilson) Stafford, the former born in Genesee county, New York, while the latter was the first white child born on an island in the St. Lawrence river and St. Lawrence county, New York. The parents came to Branch county in a wagon from Detroit, Michigan. They were pioneer residents of Calhoun county and were married there, and at an early epoch in the development of Branch county took up their residence within its borders and were identified with its early improvement and development. Mrs. Bater was the second in a family of six daughters and two sons, and was born in Burlington township, Calhoun county, Michigan, on the 6th of October, 1841. She was but a child when she came to Branch county, where she has lived all her life. Her mother, who was born in 1818, is also yet living, having reached the eighty-sixth milestone on life's journey.

For about a year and a half after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Bater resided in Coldwater, and then located in Batavia township, on the state road seven miles west of the county seat. Here Mr. Bater purchased forty acres of land and began its cultivation and improvement, but in 1862 he put aside all business and personal considerations, feeling that his first duty was to his adopted country. He therefore enlisted as a private of Company C, Nineteenth Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war, returning home. He was in many of the principal engagements of that long and sanguinary strife and was with Sherman on the march to the sea and also took part in the grand review in Washington, where "wave after wave of bayonet crested blue" flowed by the review stand where stood the nation's president, watching the victorious army. For almost three years Mr. Bater was on active service, save for the twenty days which he spent in Libby prison, and his regiment was in the front of Atlanta. He also took part in the battles of Resaca and Peach Tree Creek, and for a year and a half he drove a six mule team for the regiment.

Following his return to Branch county Mr. Bater resumed farming and purchased sixty acres of timber land in Batavia township. He then cleared away the trees and built a little plank house, remaining there for two years. On the expiration of that period he sold out and bought a part of his present farm on section twenty-three, Batavia township. It was entirely wild and unimproved. There was not a house or building of any kind on the place. He first built a little shanty in which there was neither window nor door, but in course of time this was replaced by a substantial frame residence. He now has a fine farm, well improved, and every tree and every building upon the place have been put there by him. He first bought forty acres and at different times added tracts of eight, fifteen, ten and twenty acres, paying ninety dollars per acre for the last mentioned. Thus he has added to his property from time to time until he now owns one hundred and twenty-five

acres of valuable land, constituting one of the highly improved farms of the county.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Bater have been born four sons and two daughters: Charles, who is living in Union township; Mary, the wife of John Yeatter, a resident farmer of Colon township, St. Joseph county, Michigan; Alexander, a farmer of Batavia; Harry, a farmer living near Hodunk in Union township; Rose, the wife of B. E. Grove, of Batavia; and Samuel E., at home. The family is one of prominence in the community and Mr. and Mrs. Bater may well feel proud of the fact that they have reared sons and daughters who have become valued and respected citizens of the localities in which they reside.

Mr. Bater is a member of Butterworth Post, G. A. R., of Coldwater. He and his wife are numbered among the pioneer residents of Branch county and have been identified with the work that has led to its present development and advanced position. He has made a specialty of raising fine Shropshire sheep and is one of the most extensive dealers along this line. He is also engaged in raising Jersey hogs and deals in horses. In fact, he has some of the best stock in the county, and is a business man of recognized ability and enterprise. He has long been connected with stock-raising interests, and in this connection has traveled extensively over the county. In politics he is an earnest Republican, active in the local work of the party. The life record of Mr. and Mrs. Bater is one deserving of commendation and may well serve as a source of emulation to those who have due regard for the value of character and who wish to attain success by honorable methods. His life exemplifies the term "dignity of labor," and during the long years of his residence in this county he has never had occasion to regret his determination to seek a home in America, for here he has found good business opportunities and through their utilization has won a desirable competence.

EDMUND AUSTIN.

Edmund Austin, whose home is on section two, Quincy township, was born in Steuben (now Schuyler) county, New York, in 1844. In the same county and state was born his father, Reuben Austin, and in New York the early English ancestors of the family settled many years ago. Reuben Austin, who was a farmer all his active career, came to Michigan in 1854, and, first as a renter and then an owner, he farmed successfully in Quincy township for many years. He had married in New York and brought his wife and two children with him to this county. His death occurred in 1864, at the age of fifty years. He was a class leader in the Methodist church, and supported the Republican party. He married a native of Vermont, Ruth Shattuck, who died at the age of seventy-six years, in 1898. Her parents were Dr. Benjamin and Mary Shattuck, of English lineage. She was also a member of the Methodist church. Edmund Austin has one brother, Wesley J., who is a carpenter and painter in Quincy. He served three years and three months in the Civil war, being one of those who volunteered at Quincy in 1861, and was a member of Battery F, First Michigan Artillery.

Mr. Austin was reared on a farm, and outside of his attendance at district school and his regular vocation of farming, he has followed the trade of carpenter to some extent and has also taught school. He married, in September, 1870, Lydia Ann Lockwood. She was born on the farm where she and her husband now make their home, in 1843, and is a daughter of Wesley Lockwood, whose recent death, March 5, 1905, took away one of Branch county's oldest and most esteemed citizens. Of English ancestry, he was born in the state of New York, October 12, 1807, and came to Michigan in 1836. A farmer by occupation, he resided on his eighty-acre farm, on section two of Quincy township, for over sixty years. He was a class leader in the Methodist church over forty years. He married, in New York, Mary Ann Philo, who was born in New York, and her parents died in that state. Mr. and Mrs. Lockwood had six children, three of whom were born before the parents moved to Michigan. Charles, Cynthia and William Henry are deceased, the last named having served about three years and eight months in the Thirty-first Indiana Volunteer Infantry during the Civil war. Esther E. married W. J. Austin, a brother of Edmund; Lydia Ann is Mrs. Austin; and Libbeous is a farmer and resides at Jonesville. Mr. and Mrs. Austin have two children: Henry W. is a farmer at Quincy, and Addie G. married J. B. Pessell, manager of a creamery at Butler, Indiana.

Mr. Austin is a steward in the Methodist church in the township of Quincy, and in politics is a Republican. For eight years Mr. Austin owned a farm and resided in Wexford county, Michigan, and during seven years of this period he represented his township on the board of supervisors. At the present time he is serving in the office of justice of the peace, and also as school inspector.

FRANKLIN EATON.

Franklin Eaton, now living a retired life in Coldwater, was born in York township, Washtenaw county, Michigan, December 5, 1840. He is descended from John Eaton of Dedham, England, who came to America in the Mayflower. His father, Jeremiah Eaton, was a native of Plattsburgh Center, New York, and was a farmer by occupation. He remained a resident of the east until 1849, when, attracted by the discovery of gold in California, he made the overland trip to the Pacific coast, traveling across long, hot stretches of sand and through the mountain passes. At length he reached his destination and spent two years in California, engaged in mining and shaving shingles. Upon his return to the east he located in Lake county, Illinois, where he remained for about nine years, after which he established his home in Floyd county, Iowa. Later he returned to Michigan, but after four years again settled in Iowa, and was there drowned in the Shell Rock river in 1857. His wife bore the maiden name of Huldah Howard and was a native of Owosco township, Cayuga county, New York. Her father was Cyrus Howard, who was of Scotch descent. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Eaton were born five sons and a daughter.

Franklin Eaton, the third child and the third son of this family, spent his boyhood days in Illinois, Iowa and Michigan, as his parents removed

from one place to another. In 1857, when but seventeen years of age, he entered upon an apprenticeship to the blacksmith's trade, and when he had completed his term of indenture he began working as a blacksmith in Ann Arbor. He removed to Coldwater in 1861, but in the same year responded to his country's call for troops, enlisting as a member of Company H, First Michigan Infantry, for three months' service. It was after this that he came to Coldwater, and here he re-enlisted in Company I, Fourth Michigan Cavalry, with which he served until the close of the war. At the time of his second enlistment he became a sergeant and held that rank until hostilities had ceased, although he was offered a commission, which he did not accept. He had four brothers, who were also soldiers, and three of them were members of the Fourth Michigan Cavalry. All lived to return from the war, although the youngest was for nine months in Andersonville prison. There are but two of the number now living, William L. being a resident of Hamilton Island, Michigan. Franklin Eaton participated in the first battle of Bull Run, and while at the front he dislocated his right ankle, which has caused him a great deal of trouble since. He was a brave and loyal soldier, often found where the battle raged heaviest, and he participated in the engagements at Perryville, Stone River, Kenesaw Mountain, Chickamauga and many others, receiving an honorable discharge at Nashville, Tennessee, and being mustered out at Nashville, Tennessee.

When the country no longer needed his aid, Mr. Eaton returned to Coldwater and resumed work at his trade. In 1867 he began business on his own account and continued in active blacksmithing until 1897, when he sold out and retired to private life. He is now enjoying a well earned rest, having in the years of his former toil acquired a competence that now enables him to live retired.

In 1862 Mr. Eaton was married to Miss Harriett Burroughs, who died in 1897, and he has since married Mrs. Margaret Nelson, the widow of George Nelson, who was also a soldier of the Civil war. Mr. Eaton is a charter member of the first Grand Army post that was organized in the state of Michigan, has been continuously connected therewith and served as commander for two years. He has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for more than twenty years and also belongs to other orders. He has never voted any ticket save that of the Republican party. He was chief engineer of the fire department for two years and assisted in organizing the Light Guards, of which he was lieutenant for six years. He has ever been fearless in conduct and faultless in honor, and in the public welfare of the county he has been deeply interested. He is a native son of Michigan, and in his life he has displayed the strong and sturdy traits of character of a pioneer ancestry and the alert, enterprising spirit of the present age.

WILLIAM F. YOUNG.

William F. Young, well known in Branch county, where he has been a progressive farmer and citizen for many years, was born in Wayne county, New York, in 1835, and has been a resident of Michigan since 1847. He

spent the remainder of his youth and early manhood near Adrian and in Jackson county, and in 1861 enlisted for service in the Civil war. He was a member of the First Michigan Engineers, being second sergeant all through his three years' service. He was the first man to enlist in the company at Jackson. One permanent result of his performance of duty to his country is the loss of his hearing. He returned home in 1864, and on January 3, 1865, was married to Angeline C. Burch. She was born at Grass Lake, Jackson county, Michigan, in 1843, and died in Reading, Michigan, in 1887, having been the mother of four children, namely: Arthur B.; Nona A., deceased; William H., and Florence A., William and Florence being residents of Chicago.

Mr. Young married for his present wife, in 1902, Susan (Farleman) Donnau. She was born at Tecumseh, Michigan, in 1843, a daughter of John and Lydia Farleman, he of German and she of Canadian French lineage. By her previous marriage to Peter Donnau, who was born in Ohio and who died in 1897, she had three children: Katie, the wife of Henry Wilcox, a coal dealer at Illiopolis, Illinois; Susie L., the wife of Henry Rentchler, farmer of Illiopolis; and Henry, a farmer in Logan county, Illinois.

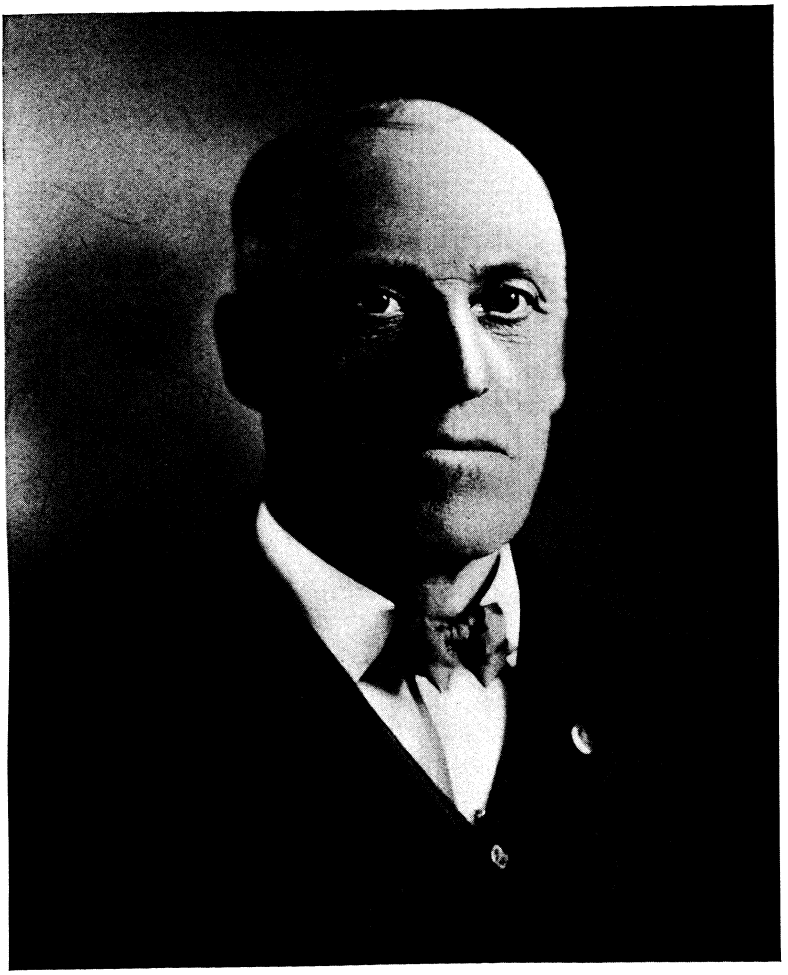
Mr. Young was in the brick manufacturing business at Grass Lake several years, and in the same business at Hillsdale. At the latter place he owned one hundred acres of land, and has the distinction of having manufactured more brick at that place than any other person. He came to Quincy township, this county, from Reading, in 1887, and has since been successfully engaged in farming on section sixteen, where he owns forty acres.

Mr. Young is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Quincy. In politics a staunch Republican, which party he has supported since the days of Lincoln and the Civil war, he has always taken a public-spirited interest in local and state affairs, and while a resident of Hillsdale was town treasurer.

CALVIN BEERS.

Honesty and stability of character are the culminating attributes of a man's life. These are the cardinal points of the gentleman's career whose name heads this review. The beautiful country home of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Beers is known as "Sunny Lawns," and their pretty home is the scene of many pleasant gatherings. He is an agriculturist of a high order, as well as a poultry fancier, his henneries containing some of the prize fowls to be found in the county of Branch.

Mr. Beers is one of Michigan's native sons, his birth having occurred in Hillsdale county, on the 5th of September, 1847. His father, Harrison Beers, was a native of New York and a son of Fitch Beers, a native of Connecticut. Having arrived at years of maturity Harrison Beers was married to Miss Fanny Boyce, a native of New York, whence they came to Michigan in 1845, locating in Allen township, Hillsdale county. They settled upon a tract of wild land in the midst of the forest and there the father cleared up and improved a farm, remaining thereon until his death, which occurred in his eighty-sixth year. Unto him and his wife were born four sons and



Calvin Sears



Mrs. Calvin Beers.

two daughters, and the father's death was the first in the family. The children are all yet living, namely: Edna, the wife of Edwin Nixon, of Grand Ledge, Michigan; Calvin, of this review; Adella, the wife of James Howell, a resident of California; Angus, of Hillsdale, Michigan; Fred, who is married and is a farmer of Matteson township; and Henry, who is also married and is living upon the old family homestead in Hillsdale county.

Calvin Beers spent the days of his boyhood and youth in the county of his nativity and acquired his education in the common and select schools there. He was early trained to habits of industry, economy and integrity and he remained at home until he had attained his majority, when he engaged in business for himself. He learned the trade of painting and decorating when a young man and followed that pursuit for twelve years in Hillsdale county. In March, 1877, he came to Branch county, locating on a farm, where for sixteen years he carried on general agricultural pursuits. He then bought his present farm, known as the Hammond place, comprising eighty acres of land, on which he carries on the work of general farming, bringing the fields up to a high state of cultivation, so that he annually harvests good crops. With a nature that could never content itself with mediocrity he has steadily made advancement in his business life and has a well improved farm property. To some extent he has given his attention to dairy farming and has also followed his trade.

On the 24th of February, 1869, Mr. Beers was united in marriage to Miss Emogene Westgate, a daughter of Charles and Harriet (Brigham) Westgate. Her father was born in New York and came to Branch county at an early day, locating in Allen township, Hillsdale county, where he followed farming. There his death occurred when about seventy-eight years of age. His wife, who was also a native of the Empire state, died in Hillsdale county, Michigan, aged seventy-eight years. Mrs. Beers is the second of five children, three daughters and two sons, all of whom grew to manhood or womanhood, and is a native of Branch county, Michigan, born April 26, 1846. She was here reared and educated as a teacher, and by her marriage has become the mother of one son and two daughters: Ray D., a yard conductor on the Vandalia Railroad at South Bend; Beulah, the wife of Claude Palmer, a fireman on the Michigan Central Railroad, living in Jackson, Michigan, and they have a little daughter, Dorothy; and Edna, the wife of Yedo Evart, a railroad man of South Bend on the Vandalia Railroad, and they also have one little daughter, Eilene.

In his political views Mr. Beers has been a life-long Republican, taking an active interest in the work of the party, and for twelve years he was clerk of Mattison township. He has been a resident of Branch county for twenty-eight years and in local progress and national advancement feels a deep pride, manifesting at all times a public spirited citizenship.

Mrs. Beers is one of the estimable ladies of the township, and has received more than an ordinary education, having been one of the successful teachers of Hillsdale and Branch counties a number of years. She is an able assistant to her husband in the establishment of a model home and surroundings.

They have in their home some very antique relics of "Ye olden days," such as a mahogany stand and mirror which are over a century old. Also, two queerly wrought pitchers brought from England about 1796. They are family heirlooms. Mr. Beers takes decided ground on the subject of temperance and is also an enthusiast in the organization known as "The American Society of Equity," which is designed to aid the farmer.

WILLIAM MARQUART.

William Marquart, who since 1873 has been a resident of Algansee township, was born in Germany, and is now seventy years of age. The years of his youth and early manhood were spent in the land of his nativity, and when he made his way to the new world he located in Reading, Michigan, but spent three months only in that place. He then located permanently in Algansee township and for four years worked by the day at farm labor. On the expiration of that period, having, through his industry and careful management, saved a sum sufficient to enable him to purchase land, he became the owner of fifty acres on section nine, where he is now living a retired life. While in his native country he had served as a member of the German army. Here he devoted his energies to agricultural pursuits until he had acquired a comfortable competence that is sufficient to supply him with the necessities and comforts of life. His political allegiance has been given to the Republican party since he became a naturalized American citizen, and in everything relating to the welfare of his community he is progressive and interested. His religious faith is that of the Lutheran church, of which he has long been a faithful member.

William Marquart was united in marriage to Christina Hacker, also a native of Germany. She died November 18, 1905, and her remains are interred in the Fisher cemetery, a beautiful stone marking her last resting place. They became the parents of five children: Rickey, who married Newton Boyer, a Methodist minister, who is now operating her father's farm; Fred; William, who is a farmer of Quincy township; John, deceased; and Minnie, who died in infancy.

Fred Marquart, the eldest son, was reared with his father in Germany, and came with his parents to the United States in the fall of 1873. He attended school in his native country and also became a district school student in Algansee township, and throughout his entire life has been identified with agricultural interests. He was trained to habits of industry and economy and soon came to realize the value of untiring effort and persistency of purpose as forceful and resultant factors in winning success. He is now living on section ten, Algansee township, where he has one hundred and forty acres of land, and on section fifteen of the same township has a tract of forty acres of his wife's. His home is one of the finest and most convenient country residences in Branch county, is tastefully furnished and gives every evidence of the refined and cultured taste of the inmates. In connection with the tilling of the soil Mr. Marquart is extensively engaged in the raising of graded stock, making a specialty of Durham cattle and Delaine sheep.

In 1880 Mr. Marquart was married to Miss Amelia Roloff, whose birth

occurred in Germany, in 1862. Her father, Fred Roloff, was also a native of that country, and on coming to the United States in 1864 took up his abode in Algansee. He was a practical farmer, who prospered in his undertakings. He married Caroline Hildebrand, also a native of the same country, and a sister of Frederick Hildebrand, mentioned elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Marquart have two children: Eugenia, the wife of Jay Meyers, a resident farmer, living on his father's land; and Edward, who at the age of eighteen years is a strong and stalwart boy of six feet. The parents are members of the Lutheran church and are interested in its work and contribute continuously to its support. Mr. Marquart is an inflexible adherent of the Republican party, standing firm in support of his convictions and keeping well informed on the questions and issues of the day, so that he is able to support his opinions by intelligent argument. Both he and his wife are well known in this locality and have many warm friends.

CLARK C. SEARS.

Among the men of New England birth and ancestry whose active years have been mainly spent in this beautiful and prosperous county of Branch, and to whose ability and integrity as men of action and influence the county owes its best elements of growth and progress, is to be mentioned among the first Mr. Clark C. Sears, now and for many years a prominent citizen of Quincy. Having been born in 1827 (October 23), he is now well within the shadow of his eightieth year, and a long career of useful activity has characterized this extended age.

Mr. Sears' birthplace is Ridgebury, Connecticut, and his first American ancestors, dating back to the colonial period, settled at Cape Cod, so that the family for generations has been identified with New England life and affairs. One of his forefathers was a captain in the continental army during the Revolution. His father, James Sears, also of Connecticut birth, was a well-to-do farmer and stock-raiser, took an active part in the Presbyterian church, being an elder, and in politics followed the fortune of the Whigs and later the Republicans. He died in New York state. His wife was Deborah Crosby, a native of Connecticut, and also of New England stock, and a member of the Presbyterian church. They were parents of five children, of whom Clark C. is the only one now living. The others are: George Beldon, who was superintendent of the Newark, New Jersey, public schools twenty-five years; Gould B., likewise a school teacher, and a farmer in Ontario county, New York; Maria, who married Francis Northrup, a shoemaker of Newark, New Jersey, now deceased; Eliza A., whose husband, John Wright, a farmer, was in the Civil war and is now living in West Bay City, Michigan.

Clark C. Sears was reared on a farm and attended school in Orleans, Ontario county, New York. Farming has been the industry to which he has devoted the best energies of his life and by which he has gained his material success. He came to Michigan in 1860, and after living awhile in the village of Quincy he bought a farm on section nine of the township of the same name. He farmed this place four years, and then bought the place of one hundred and thirty-eight acres on section eight where he still makes

his home, taking life easily and gracefully in his declining years. Besides his farming interests he is a stockholder and director in the First National Bank of Quincy.

On April 10, 1901, Mr. and Mrs. Sears passed the fiftieth or golden anniversary of their wedded lives—one of those rare occasions, so rich in memories and associations, that they are never to be passed over without mention. Just fifty years before that date Mr. Sears had married Miss Harriet E. Warner, who was born in Ontario county, New York, September 13, 1831. Her father, John Warner, a native of Massachusetts and of an English family that settled in New England at an early day and later furnished patriotic assistance to the colonies in the Revolution, moved to New York with his parents when he was a boy, he being one of a large family of children. He was a shoe merchant at one time, but followed farming for the most part. He married Susan Post, a native of Long Island and of English lineage. Mrs. Sears was the youngest child and is the only one living, the other children being, Jesse, Edwin, Ulysses, Orson, Maria, George, John, Susan. Jesse and Susan came to Michigan and died in this state, while the sons George and John died in California. John Warner was a Universalist in religious faith, while his wife was a Presbyterian.

Mr. and Mrs. Sears were parents to five children, namely: Sumner, a practicing physician in Quincy; Minnie, who married Milo D. Campbell, of Coldwater; Nellie, the widow of Sereno Mansell, who was a plumber in Coldwater; George, on the home farm; and Mabel, deceased. Mr. Sears is an elder in the Presbyterian church at Quincy. He is a member of the Grange, and in politics a Republican. His public service shows a record of thirty years as justice of the peace, and he has also been supervisor of Quincy township.

WARREN HENRY.

Warren Henry, a retired farmer of Sherwood, was born in Sterling township, Windom county, Connecticut, July 6, 1819, and has therefore passed the eighty-sixth milestone on life's journey. His father, James Henry, was born in the same house in which his son's birth occurred. The grandfather, James Henry, Sr., was a native of Scotland, and when a young man came to America, being married after his arrival in this country. He died in 1809. James Henry, Jr., removed from New England to Portage county, Ohio, in 1831, locating on a farm in Highland township. All around were the green woods—nature's handiwork, for man had not begun his work of transformation at that time. He built a log cabin in the midst of the forest and began the improvement of the farm, continuing its cultivation up to the time of his death, which occurred when he was seventy-four years of age. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Henrietta Jordan, was about sixty-nine years of age when called to her final rest. Mr. Henry had served as a lieutenant in the war of 1812, and his commission is now in possession of Warren Henry. In the father's family were seventeen children, of whom thirteen reached manhood and womanhood.

Warren Henry, the youngest son and the sixteenth member, is also

the only surviving member of that large family. His eldest brother lived to be ninety-six years of age and nearly all of the others reached advanced years.

When but twelve years of age Warren Henry accompanied his parents on their removal to Portage county, Ohio, where he spent the remainder of his youth, pursuing his education in the log schoolhouses and assisting in the arduous task of developing a new farm. He remained with his parents until they were called from this life. He was married the first time in 1840, Miss Harriet Eggleston becoming his wife, and in 1851 he removed to Branch county, Michigan. Four children, two sons and two daughters, were born of this marriage: Norman, who died at Chattanooga, Tennessee, in 1865, while serving his country as a Union soldier; Adelia, the wife of William Bailey, of Union City, Michigan; Otis, of Louisiana; and Hettie, who died when about three years of age. The mother died in Ohio in 1849, and it was two years later that Mr. Henry came with his family to this county, settling in Sherwood. In 1868 he married Hattie Hall, and they became the parents of one son, Walter G., who is now employed in the mail department of the Chicago post office. Mrs. Hattie Henry passed away in 1877, and in 1879 Mr. Henry married Mary Ellen Gerls, of Greenville, Mount Calm county, Michigan. They had two sons, Hubert, of Sherwood, and Harry G., who died when only a year old.

When Mr. Henry arrived in Sherwood in 1851 it was a new town, and the work of improvement and progress had scarcely been begun in the surrounding districts. He purchased a farm a mile and a half north of the village, there residing for about eight years, when he bought another farm, on which he lived for a short time. In 1866 he purchased what is called the Studley farm, making it his home until 1880, when he built his present residence in Sherwood, since living in the village. He is, however, one of the largest land owners of the township, having now about three hundred acres within its borders, and this valuable property returns to him a good income. His political allegiance has always been given the Democracy, and for sixteen years he served as justice of the peace, discharging his duties with equity and impartiality. He was also school director for several years and the cause of education has found in him a warm friend. His residence in the county covers fifty-four years and he has been very successful in his business career, making all that he now possesses through his earnest and unremitting labor and close attention to his business. He has erected seven frame houses, five of which were built in Sherwood township, and he has had the misfortune to have four houses destroyed by fire. He is familiar with the pioneer history of Ohio as well as of Michigan. The first house in which he lived in the latter state had no board floor. His wife made all of the clothes for the family, spinning and weaving and producing the manufactured articles from the raw wool. The family diet was mostly bread and milk, but they all enjoyed good health. In order to purchase for his wife the first calico dress which she ever owned Mr. Henry rode a distance of forty miles on horseback. When the family removed from Connecticut to Ohio there was but one railroad in the United

States, and this line is well remembered by Mr. Henry, who had arrived thereon, the cars being drawn by horses, for as yet steam power had not been utilized as a means of transportation. He has been a witness of much of the country's growth and development, has seen the introduction of the telegraph and the telephone and the transformation of farming methods through the introduction of improved and modern machinery. He has now passed the eighty-sixth milestone on life's journey and his career is one in which unimpeachable honor and straightforward dealing command the respect of all. In his life he has embodied the belief that he does best who does most to help his fellow men. He is a self-made and self-educated man of the present twentieth century.

JOHN KNECHT.

John Knecht, interested in general agricultural pursuits, his home being on section eight, Algansee township, was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, in 1853. His father, Charles Knecht, was a native of Pennsylvania, and was of German lineage. In early life he learned and followed the cooper's trade, while subsequently he became a farmer and devoted his energies to that pursuit for a number of years. In the spring of 1865 he came to Michigan, settling in Coldwater, after which he was employed on a railroad for a time, but later bought and operated a farm in Algansee township. He held membership in the Lutheran church in early manhood and in later life became identified with the Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which he took an active and helpful part. He died in Bethel in 1884, at the age of seventy-five years. His wife, whose maiden name was Lydia Stair, was born in Pennsylvania, April 24, 1810, and died in this county March 23, 1886. She, too, was of German lineage, and her parents died in the Keystone state. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Knecht had a family of eleven children: Harriet, who is the widow of Michael Zellers and makes her home in Coldwater; Stephen, of Kansas; Charles, who is living in Butler, Michigan; Julia Ann, the deceased wife of David Erb; Sarah, the deceased wife of Jared Shennefeild; Maria, who married William Zellers, and after his death became the wife of Frank Tompkins, of Ovid township; Rachel, the wife of Joshua Leaf, of Coldwater; Rebecca, who died at the age of four years; Mary, the widow of William Osman, and a resident of Coldwater; Samuel, who is living in Algansee; and John.

In taking up the personal history of John Knecht we present to our readers the life record of one who is widely known in his adopted township and county. He spent his early youth upon the home farm in Ohio, and with his parents came to Michigan. His education was acquired in the country schools, and he has always followed the occupation to which he was reared, now making his home on section eight, Algansee township, where he owns one hundred and forty-nine acres of land, constituting a valuable and well improved farm, on which he has raised high grade cattle and sheep. His business interests are carefully conducted and result in bringing him merited and gratifying success. On the 20th of July, 1873, Mr. Knecht was married to Miss Sarah Ann Dixon, who was born in Illinois in 1857,



C. H. Newell

and is a daughter of Thomas and Angeline Dixon. The father was a native of England, and when nine years of age came to the United States. His last days were spent in Branch county, Michigan, where both he and his wife passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Knecht have no children of their own, but are rearing an adopted daughter, Lura Marium, now fifteen years of age, who has been with them since sixteen months old. Mr. and Mrs. Knecht are members of the Free Methodist church, in which they take an active interest, and he has served as class-leader, steward and trustee, while for the past twenty years he has been chorister in the Sunday School. In his political views he is a Prohibitionist, for that party embodies his ideas concerning the temperance question.

CHARLES H. NEWELL.

Charles H. Newell, who is the editor of Coldwater's widely read and popular paper, The Courier, was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, but has been a resident of Coldwater for the past sixteen years and is well known not only throughout Branch county, but the state as well. After completing a course in the public schools of Cincinnati Mr. Newell went to Oberlin, Ohio, where he continued school work for about three years, and while doing that became interested in journalism, resulting in accepting a position with the Oberlin News, on which paper he worked for about three years, and then returned to Cincinnati, where he continued in the printing business for several years.

In August of 1885 Mr. Newell purchased a third interest in the Plain Dealer, of Wabash, Indiana, and became the editor of that paper, which is one of the strongest and best known Republican papers of Indiana. In the fall of 1889 he purchased The Courier, of Coldwater, in connection with C. W. Owen, and has been identified with that paper ever since. The Courier is the recognized leading Republican paper of Branch county and has done splendid service for its party. It was established in 1882 by Nichols & Moore, who conducted it until 1887, when John N. Foster became its owner, and he in turn, about two years later, disposed of his interest to Newell & Owen. In 1897 Mr. Newell purchased the Coldwater Republican and merged that paper with The Courier, since which time The Courier has advanced from a weekly to an every-other-day publication and is looked upon as a thoroughly reliable publication.

Mr. Newell has been one of the prominent members of the Michigan Press Association, one of the strongest newspaper organizations in the country, serving as an official in that organization almost continuously since becoming identified with it. At the winter meeting held in Battle Creek in 1903 Mr. Newell was unanimously elected president of the association, the office coming to him wholly unsought, and he served for two terms, only one other member ever having achieved that honor. On two occasions he was elected a delegate to the National Editorial Association.

Politically Mr. Newell is a stanch Republican, but not an office-seeker. He has never been a candidate for political honors, but naturally takes a

lively interest in the welfare of the party of his choice. He is also an active worker in the Presbyterian church of Coldwater and is a member of the board of trustees and an active member of the choir.

WESLEY LECKNER.

Wesley Leckner, engaged in buying wool at Sherwood, is a native of Crawford county, Ohio, born November 23, 1837. His father, Sampson Leckner, was a native of Pennsylvania and a pioneer of Cass county, Michigan, where he located about 1844. He was of German lineage and displayed many of the strong and sterling characteristics of his Teutonic ancestry. He followed the occupation of farming, living a life of activity and usefulness and reaching the venerable age of eighty-four years. He married Eliza Fredricks, a native of Pennsylvania, who lived to the age of seventy-nine years. In their family were five children, all of whom yet survive.

Wesley Leckner, the eldest of the family, was a lad of seven summers when he arrived in Michigan with his parents, and upon the home farm in Cass county he was reared. In retrospect one can see him as a farm boy trudging each morning to school through the winter months over a distance of two miles and then conning his lessons in a little log school house. His father was well educated, and assisted the son in his books in his younger days, so that he enjoyed more than the limited advantages afforded by the common schools. He was also trained to habits of industry and integrity, and these elements proved a basic force in his character in later years. He remained at home until twenty-two years of age and was then married to Miss Margaret Early, a daughter of John Early of Cass county. She was born in Pennsylvania, and is the eldest in a family of five children. She was brought to Michigan during her infancy, her parents settling in Cass county, and there Mr. and Mrs. Leckner began their domestic life upon a farm in Porter township. About 1870 he sold his property there. He had become a recognized factor in political circles, and was elected to various township offices and also appointed to some county offices. He served as deputy sheriff of Cass county and he resided at Constantine, Michigan, for a time. In 1880, however, he removed to Sherwood, where he engaged in the butchering business, establishing the first meat market in the town. Since that time he has also devoted his attention to a greater or less extent to dealing in live stock. During the winter he was upon the road for Henry Newland & Company of Detroit, whom he represented for about twelve years, and he was also with White Brothers of Boston for about six years. It was subsequent to that time that he was appointed deputy sheriff of Branch county, and for four years he filled that office. He has also been highway commissioner, and for many years has been a member of the city council of Sherwood. He has ever exercised his official prerogatives in support of general progress and improvement, making a close study of the needs of the county, and doing all in his power to advance the general welfare.

Mr. Leckner is a staunch Democrat, having always advocated the principles promulgated by Jackson. He has, however, not considered himself

strictly bound to party ties and he voted for Abraham Lincoln and has been somewhat independent in his local political affiliation. He has never faltered in support of his honest convictions, but has fearlessly defended his views no matter what the opposition. He was one of the men who incorporated the village of Sherwood and was instrumental in laying out the streets and making many other substantial and permament improvements. He was one of the first members of the village board, and he has ever studied the needs of the town and labored to meet these. He has contributed to its material improvement through the erection of several houses, and he has practical experience in the builder's trade, having at one time served an apprenticeship as a carpenter. Mr. Leckner is likewise prominent in the Masonic fraternity, being a charter member of Sherwood Lodge No. 421.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Leckner has been blessed with four daughters: Clara; Hattie, the wife of S. T. Downs, of Grand Rapids, Michigan; Laura, the wife of R. W. Mead, who is an agriculturist and stockman; and Ida, the wife of William Zimmers, of Burr Oak, Michigan. The last named was a successful and prominent teacher in Sherwood for several terms.

Mr. Leckner is well known in Branch county and has an extensive acquaintance in this part of the state. He is now representing the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Branch and St. Joseph counties, and in this connection has become well known. He is also a dealer in wool, and his business interests have brought him into contact with many of the residents of this portion of the state, while his social qualities and genuine worth have gained him warm friendships and high regard. He may well be numbered among the real promoters and upbuilders of the town of Sherwood, and his name is therefore inseparably associated with its history. He is broad gauged and liberal in all of his views, political, religious and social. He is a man of action rather than theory and while others might argue and debate he has gone to work and demonstrated in practical effort his views upon various questions.

E. H. WILLIAMS.

E. H. Williams, who is engaged in the manufacture of cigars in Coldwater, was born in Quincy, Branch county, March 31, 1855. His father, Daniel G. Williams, was a native of New York, and was a son of Ezariah Williams, who was also born in the Empire state. The grandparents came with their family to Michigan about 1837, locating in Coldwater, Branch county. This was then a pioneer district in which the work of improvement and progress had scarcely been begun, and with the early development of the county the family became closely associated. Daniel G. Williams was only seven years of age when he accompanied his parents on their emigration westward. They lived at Coldwater for a time and afterward removed to Port Huron, Michigan, returning, however, to Branch county at a later day. The father now resides in Los Angeles, California. He married Miss Betsy Hayden, also a native of New York, who died when about sixty-eight years of age. Her father, Hiram Hayden, was likewise born in the Empire state and came to Branch county about 1834. He built the sixth

house in Coldwater, on what is now Hudson street, and was one of the pioneer settlers of Branch county. By trade he was a cabinet maker, and was one of the early representatives of industrial life in this city. In the Williams family were but two children, the sister, Flora, being now a resident of Los Angeles, California.

E. H. Williams, the only son, was reared in Quincy until about seventeen years of age, and attended school there. He afterward went to Grand Ledge, Michigan, where he learned engineering, being employed in the factory in that place. For about nine years he continued at Grand Ledge, after which he traveled through the western states and then again located at Grand Ledge, where he spent the winter. He next went to Colorado, where he was engaged in mining for about three years, spending much of the time at Leadville. On the expiration of that period he returned to Coldwater, arriving here about 1884. Since that time he has engaged in the manufacture of cigars and has also conducted the poultry business to some extent. In his cigar factory he employs five men and two women. His special brand of cigars is the Zach Chandler, a five cent cigar, and the Lady Hudson and Our Standard, which are ten cent goods. In his business Mr. Williams has prospered and is now in good financial circumstances.

In 1886 occurred the marriage of E. H. Williams and Miss Ida Young, the wedding ceremony being performed by the Rev. Henry Collin. Mrs. Williams is a daughter of Hiram and Nancy (Weller) Young, and was born in New York near Syracuse, being brought to Coldwater by her parents when about fifteen years of age. There is one daughter by this marriage, Arlie, now the wife of Roy Van Shoick.

Mr. Williams has been a life-long Republican, and is a member of the Masonic fraternity and the Knights of the Maccabees. In Coldwater and Branch counties he is well known, having spent much of his life here, and his genial manner and unfailing courtesy have rendered him popular with a large circle of friends.

MARTIN F. BUELL.

Martin F. Buell, who is now living retired at Union City, was here born on the 6th of October, 1841, and is a son of Justus and Emeline (Blakeman) Buell, who were natives of the state of New York, but became early residents of Branch county, settling in Union City in 1836. The father died in June, 1869, having survived his wife for a number of years. They were the parents of eight children, of whom four reached adult age, namely: Judson W., Martin F., David B. and Jasper D. The last named, however, passed away in California.

Martin F. Buell was reared and educated in Union City, supplementing his public school course by study in Eastman's College at Poughkeepsie, New York, where he completed a commercial course and was graduated in the class of 1866. He then returned to his native town and remained with his parents until the death of his father, when he was appointed administrator of the estate. About that time he entered the employ of the Michigan Central Railroad as station agent, and occupied the position continuously from

January 18, 1871, to August 16, 1899, covering twenty-six consecutive years. He has since lived retired from active business life, having from his earnings and by judicious investment secured a competence that now enables him to enjoy a well earned rest.

At the time of the Civil war Mr. Buell espoused the cause of his country. Hardly had the smoke from Fort Sumter's guns cleared away when he offered his services to the Union, enlisting on the 18th of April, 1861, as a member of Company A, Loomis' First Michigan Battery A. He served for three years and three months. His regiment was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland, and he participated in many hotly contested engagements, including the battles of Stone River, Chickamauga, Perryville, Middle Fork Bridge, Hoover's Gap, Green River, Missionary Ridge and many others. He never faltered in the performance of any duty and was often where the leaden hail fell thickest. At the close of the war he received an honorable discharge and returned to his home in Union City with a most creditable military record. He was the first one of the boys in Union township enlisted for the service and the last to get a pension. He was a faithful soldier and never in all his service was he off duty, nor in hospital, but always ready to perform his duty as a conscientious and faithful soldier.

Mr. Buell was married January 6, 1869, to Miss Mary J. Perry, a daughter of Edwin and Eliza (Spencer) Perry, of Union City. Mrs. Buell was born in Burlington, Calhoun county, Michigan, April 7, 1846, and has become the mother of five children, but Brownie B. died at the age of three years. Perry J. is represented on another page of this work and the other members of the family are Daisy E., Glynne G. and Benjamin H.

In his political views Mr. Buell is a staunch Republican, active in the work of the party and has been honored by his fellow townsmen with a number of local offices. He has served as supervisor, has been chairman of the school board of Union City for a number of years, also village president for many years and a member of the council twenty-four years. He was one of the building committee at the time of the erection of the new school house, and he is a director of the Union City National Bank. In Masonry he has attained high rank, being now a Knight Templar. His life has been one of signal usefulness to his native city, for in various public offices he has discharged his duties in a most prompt and capable manner and has co-operated in many measures for the general good that have had direct bearing upon the welfare and upbuilding here. In days of peace he is as loyal to his country as when he followed the stars and stripes upon southern battlefields, and at all times he is an honorable man worthy of the regard in which he is uniformly held.

WILLARD S. HAWLEY.

Willard S. Hawley, one of the early settlers and prominent citizens of Coldwater now living a retired life, was born in Wayne county, New York, October 7, 1844. His father, William B. Hawley, was a native of Ontario county, New York, and became a resident of Coldwater in 1866. Soon afterward he engaged in farming, locating in Girard township, where he

spent his remaining days, his death occurring in 1872. He married Lucy Doolittle, also a native of New York, and her death occurred in Coldwater. They were members of the Presbyterian church and his political allegiance was unfalteringly given to the Republican party. He was a man of honorable principles and upright life and enjoyed the unqualified confidence and regard of those who knew him. Unto him and his wife were born a son and daughter, the latter being Augusta D. Hawley, a resident of Coldwater.

Willard S. Hawley, the only son, was reared and educated in his native county and supplemented his early school privileges by a course of study in Canandaigua Academy. He has been a resident of Branch county since 1866, at which time he began farming and through a long period was actively engaged with agricultural interests. He placed his land under a high state of cultivation, following the most modern methods in tilling his fields and he also added to his place good improvements.

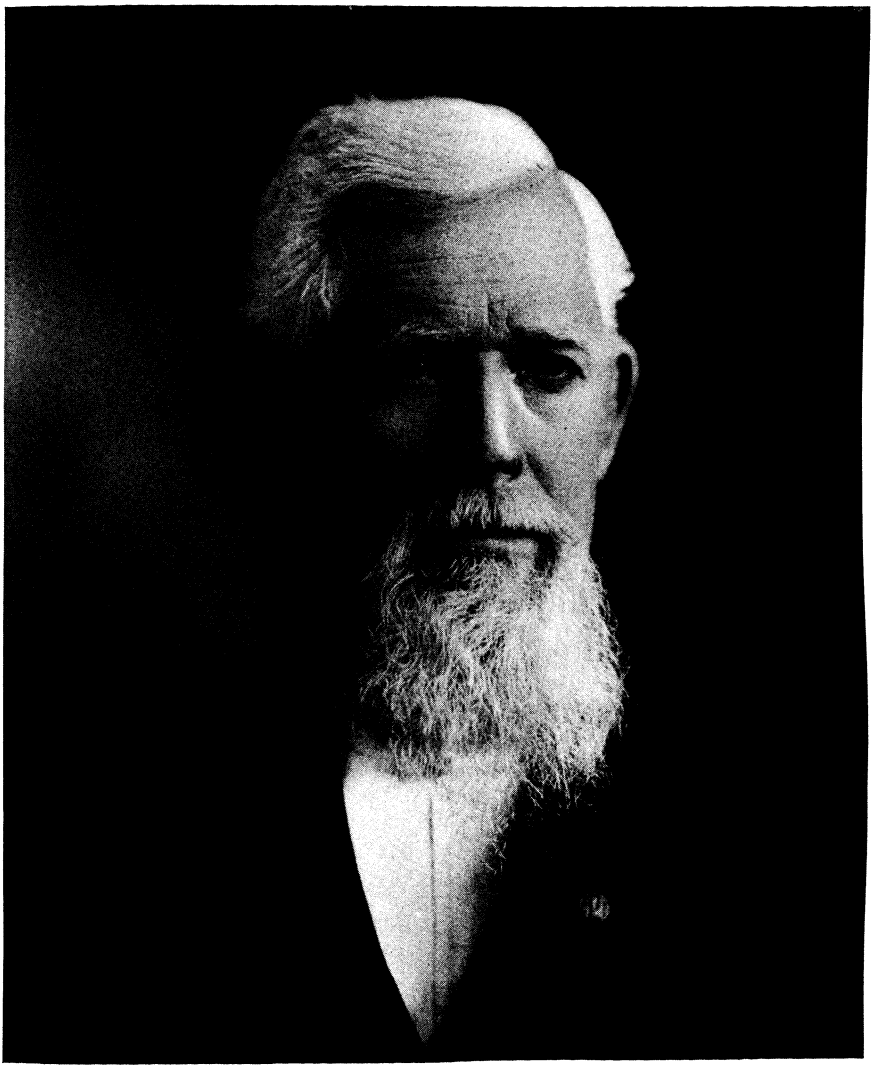
In 1876 Mr. Hawley was united in marriage to Miss Mary J. Dorrance, a daughter of A. A. and Juliet (Gregory) Dorrance. Mrs. Hawley was born in Jackson, Michigan, and pursued her education in the schools of that city and Coldwater. She has become the mother of two children: Edith A., the wife of C. C. Schrontz of Meeker, Colorado; and William D., who is a druggist of Coldwater.

In his political views Mr. Hawley is a Republican and in religious faith is a Presbyterian, taking an active part in the work of the church, in which he has served as deacon and trustee. He has lived in the county for almost forty years and has intimate knowledge concerning its growth and development because of active participation in the events which have shaped its history. He has never sought to figure prominently before the public, yet has ever manifested those sterling traits of character which are the basis of an honorable manhood and awaken admiration and respect.

ROBERT KELSO.

Robert Kelso has cleared and made all of the improvements upon his excellent farm on section fourteen, California township, where he has lived since 1878, in which year he purchased eighty acres of land. He is a native of Indiana, his birth having occurred in Greenfield, LaGrange county, on the 1st of March, 1843. His father, John Kelso, was a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, born July 10, 1811. His grandfather, Hugh Kelso, a native of Scotland, came to America about the beginning of the nineteenth century and settled first in Philadelphia, whence he afterward removed to New York. Later he came to Branch county, Michigan, and his last days were passed in Union township, but his wife departed this life in the east. In their family were five sons, all of whom came to this part of Michigan. These were: John, father of our subject; David and Henry, who died in Branch county; William, who died in Steuben county, Indiana; and Matthew, who passed away in LaGrange county, Indiana.

In the year 1836 John Kelso, leaving the east, made his way to LaGrange county, Indiana, where he resided continuously until 1852, when he



Robert Kelso

removed across the border into Branch county, Michigan. He owned one hundred and sixty acres of land in LaGrange county and eighty acres across the state line in Michigan. His life was devoted to general agricultural pursuits, which he carefully and successfully conducted for many years. He was married in the state of New York to Miss Agnes Stewart, who was born in Ireland, May 18, 1812. The Stewarts were of Scotch-Irish descent and the brothers and sisters of Mrs. Kelso were: Samuel, Robert, Thomas, Gibson, Margaret, Sarah and Rebecca Stewart. Mrs. Kelso was twelve years of age when brought to America by her parents, Thomas and Marjorie (McBride) Stewart, who were likewise natives of the Emerald Isle, in which country all of their eight children were born. Coming to America they lived in the Empire state for a brief period, and in 1836 removed to Michigan, settling in Noble township, Branch county, where they spent their remaining days.

Mr. and Mrs. John Kelso were for a number of years prominent and respected residents of Noble township, Branch county, where Mr. Kelso actively carried on general agricultural pursuits. He voted with the Democracy and his wife was a member of the Presbyterian church. His death occurred in Noble township in 1877 and Mrs. Kelso survived him for ten years, passing away in 1887. They, too, were the parents of eight children, all of whom reached years of maturity, namely: Mrs. Isabelle Depue, who is living in California township; William H., who died in Kinderhook, Michigan, in 1904; Mrs. Marjorie Link, who died in Jackson county, Indiana; Robert, of this review; Thomas and John, who are living in Noble township; Mrs. Mary Dodd, who resides in South Dakota; and Mrs. Sarah Knight, who is also a resident of Noble township, Branch county.

Robert Kelso spent the first ten years of his life in Indiana and then came with his parents to Michigan, the family home being established in Noble township, Branch county, in 1852. The work of the farm early became familiar to him and he acquired his education in the district schools. He continued at home until after the outbreak of the Civil war, when on the 7th of August, 1862, at the age of nineteen years, he responded to his country's call and enlisted at Coldwater as a member of Company H, Nineteenth Michigan Infantry. This regiment was assigned to the Second Brigade, Third Division of the Twentieth Army Corps, and he participated in the battles of Thompson Station, Tennessee; Bentwood, Tennessee; Resaca, Georgia; Carsville, Dallas, Golgotha, Culp's Farm, Kenesaw Mountain and Peach Tree Creek, all in Georgia; the siege of Atlanta; the siege of Savannah; and the battles of Averysboro and Bentonville, North Carolina. He was with Sherman during the entire Atlanta campaign and was in every battle in which his regiment participated. He was never wounded, nor was he ever in the hospital, but was captured with the entire regiment on the 5th of March, 1863, six regiments falling into the hands of the rebels at Thompson Station, Tennessee. They were taken to Tullahoma, Tennessee, and afterward to Libby prison in Richmond, but were incarcerated for only twenty-one days, at the end of which they were parolled and afterward exchanged. Thus Mr. Kelso continued in active duty up to the time of the

close of the war and was honorably discharged on the 10th of June, 1865.

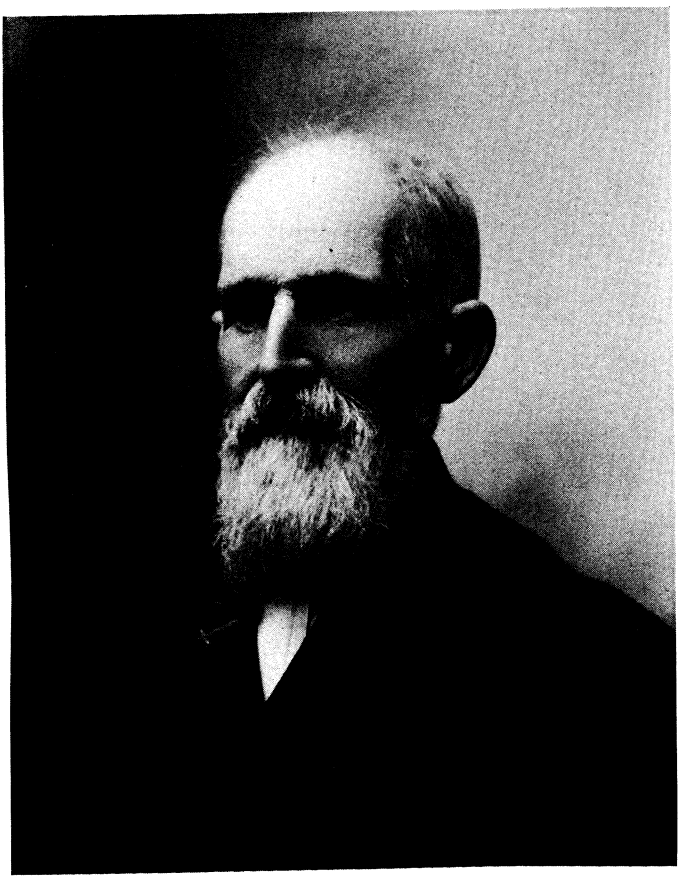
After being mustered out Mr. Kelso returned to Michigan and started out in business on his own account. He was identified with farm labor and in 1878 he purchased his present farm of eighty acres on section fourteen, California township. The place was then uncleared, but he at once began to take away the timber and brush and turn the sod, and in course of time on well plowed fields there were gathered good harvests, and year by year the farm has continued to be a productive tract. Mr. Kelso is a comrade of Eli Alvord Post, G. A. R., of Montgomery, Michigan, and maintains pleasant relations with the boys in blue, with whom he fought during the Civil war. In politics he is a Democrat and has been called to the offices of highway commissioner and justice of the peace. He has also been a director and assessor of the school district, filling the latter position at the present time. He has made an excellent record both as a soldier and farmer, and upon the battlefields of the south he displayed unfaltering loyalty to his country and the Union cause.

L. A. WARSABO, M. D.

Dr. L. A. Warsabo has engaged in the practice of medicine in Coldwater for more than thirty years and is well known here. He was born in the city of Mohileff, Russia, February 22, 1848, and was reared in his native land, obtaining a liberal literary education. Determining upon the profession of medicine as a life work he began preparation for that calling and afterward entered Moscow University, from which he was graduated with the degree of M. D., in 1869. He later went to Vienna, Austria, where he broadened his knowledge by wide experience in hospitals, coming under the instruction of some of the eminent physicians and surgeons of that country. He afterward studied a short time in further research and investigation along medical lines in Paris and in 1871 he came to the United States, arriving in Chicago on the 4th of August of that year.

Dr. Warsabo entered upon the practice of his profession in Chicago, but on account of the disastrous fire which swept over that city in October, 1871, he came to Michigan. In the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor he spent one year. In 1875 he came to Coldwater, where he has since remained, and he is today a member of the Tri-State Medical Association. He was city health officer for thirteen years, discharging the duties of that position in addition to those incumbent upon him through a large private practice.

In 1876, in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Dr. Warsabo was married to Miss Kate Garner and unto them have been born three children. He is a Republican in his political views and fraternally is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and with the Masons, having attained the Knight Templar degree in the latter organization. He is also a member of the Presbyterian church. Dr. Warsabo is a man of broad sympathies as is often manifest in his professional service. He is widely and favorably known throughout the community which he has chosen as his place of residence. His unfailing courtesy and his deference for the opinions of others have



John R Blake

made him popular and without ostentation or display he has labored most earnestly for the welfare of the city as well as for success in his professional career.

JOHN R. BLAKE.

John R. Blake, following agricultural pursuits on section five, Union township, is a native of Cayuga county, New York, born on the 8th of December, 1831. His father, John Blake, was a native of Maine, and was of English descent. The possibilities of the new and growing west attracted him. He realized that there were vast regions unclaimed which might be made cultivable and productive, and in 1833 he turned his face toward the setting sun, continuing his journey until he had reached Calhoun county, Michigan, where he made a settlement, living there for two years on his father's farm. He afterward removed to Clarendon township, of the same county, where he resided until old age, passing away when eighty-nine years of age. He was a prominent member of the Free Will Baptist church, took an active part in its work and served as one of its deacons. He married Lucinda Howe, who was born in New York, and was of Welsh descent. She died when eighty-six years of age. They were the parents of six children, who reached mature years.

John R. Blake, the fifth member of the family, was only two years old when his parents came to Michigan, the family home being established in Calhoun county. He was reared upon the farm in Clarendon township, and he attended the district schools until he had mastered the elementary branches of learning, when he became a student in Olivet College. Later he spent a half year in Oberlin College, in Oberlin, Ohio, and he has also taken a four years course of the Chautauqua Literary Scientific Society Circle. He pursued this at Clarendon and was graduated in 1882. The following year he came to Union City, and soon afterward completed arrangements for purchasing the farm upon which he now resides. While in Calhoun county he had taught for several years, proving a capable and successful educator. It was also during the fall of 1861, at Oberlin, Ohio, that he offered his services to the government in defense of the Union. He enlisted in the army and went to the south, but became ill after a short time and returned home.

In 1862 Mr. Blake was married to Miss Nancy L. Hungerford, a daughter of Hiram and Lucinda (Waters) Hungerford. She was born and reared in Michigan, and by her marriage has become the mother of two daughters: Hattie Lucinda, the wife of Henry E. Bronson, of Union township, by whom she has a son, John H.; and Sadie M., at home.

Mr. Blake has never given his political allegiance to other than the Republican party. He cast his ballot for General John C. Fremont and for each nominee at the head of the ticket since that time. He attended the anniversary services of the organization of the Republican party "under the oaks," at Jackson, Michigan, and has rejoiced in the successes which have come to the political organization that has always stood for progress, reform and improvement. He is a member of the First Congregational church

of Union City, interested in its development and the extension of its influence and active in the Sunday school work. He has been particularly helpful in the latter department of church activity and has organized many Sunday schools in the county, realizing the value of early moral training for the youth, for the Psalmist said: "Train a child up in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." He has for twenty years attended each state Sunday school convention, also all of the Sunday school conventions of the county and three of the international Sunday school conventions and is now a teacher in the Sunday school at Union City, and a deacon in the church. His life has indeed been honorable and upright, prompted by principles and motives that neither seek nor require disguise.

EARL HAZEN.

Earl Hazen, one of the early settlers of Branch county and a retired farmer now living in Sherwood, is numbered among the worthy citizens that Ohio has furnished to Michigan, for his birth occurred in Richland county, of the former state, May 28, 1828. His father, Jabin Hazen, was a native of Pennsylvania, and took up his abode in Ohio during the period of its pioneer development. He came to Michigan in 1837, and cast in his lot with the frontier settlers of Calhoun county, taking up his abode in Eckford township. The year 1840 witnessed his arrival in Branch county and he located in what is now Sherwood, but the site of the town was then all covered with a dense forest, there being only about four houses between Sherwood and Union City and the same number between Sherwood and Colon, in St. Joseph county. He purchased land which was all raw and unimproved, not a stick of timber having been cut on the place or a building of any kind erected. He first built a log cabin and in pioneer style began life there. He worked energetically in clearing the farm with the assistance of his sons and as the forest was cut down, acre after acre was placed under the plow and in due course of time abundant harvests were gathered. He lived to be eighty-three years of age and was one of the venerable citizens and honored pioneer residents of the county. He traced his ancestry back to one of three brothers who came from Spain, two of them settling in Pennsylvania. They became separated from the third brother and never heard of him again. The mother of our subject bore the maiden name of Parmelia Studley, a native of New York, who lived to be about eighty-two years of age. She became the mother of five sons and two daughters, all of whom reached adult years, and Earl Hazen is the eldest of the three now living. His brother, Charles Marion Hazen, resides on the old farm homestead in Sherwood township, and their sister Jane, the widow of Edward Bartlett, is now living in Minnesota.

Earl Hazen was about eight years of age when brought to Michigan by his parents, and was a youth of ten summers when he became a resident of Branch county. During the greater part of the time since he has made his home in Sherwood township, and when a boy he attended one of the old-time log school houses, mastering the branches of learning therein taught, although the curriculum was very limited in that day. His training at farm la-

bor, however, was not meager, for he assisted his father in clearing the land and cultivating the first crops, remaining on the old homestead until he attained his majority. He then started out in life for himself, depending entirely upon the labors of his hands for a livelihood. He worked by the day at any employment which he could secure and it was thus that he gained his start in the business world.

In 1851 Mr. Hazen sought a companion and helpmate for life's journey, being married in that year to Miss Elizabeth Webb. He then purchased a tract of land in Sherwood township, about a mile south of the village of Sherwood, where he cleared away the timber, chopping wood on about twenty acres. He then traded that farm for property in Colon, Michigan, where he worked at the cooper's trade for a number of years, after which he purchased a small place in Matteson township, where he engaged in the manufacture of brick, carrying on business along that line very successfully for many years. He also added sixty acres of land adjoining the brickyard, and while conducting that industrial enterprise he manufactured the brick used in the construction of the house which is now his home. He built his residence in 1875, and it has since been his place of abode. His first wife died in 1864, leaving a daughter, Ella, who is also now deceased. In 1865 Mr. Hazen married Emma Calver, who died March 23, 1903. He has four grandsons and two granddaughters, A. D. Frye, Carrie Frye, Clifford Frye, Charley Frye, and Leo and Theo Frye, twins.

Mr. Hazen now owns forty acres of land in Sherwood township across the road from the old homestead. He and his wife are the oldest settlers in this township, and have been identified with the upbuilding of Branch county from its infancy, for when they arrived here the entire district was almost an unbroken wilderness. Many changes have occurred and Mr. Hazen has favored every progressive measure tending to the permanent good of the county. He cast his first presidential vote for Fremont and has since supported each nominee at the head of the Republican ticket with the exception of the year 1860, when he voted for Stephen A. Douglas. In 1864, however, he supported Abraham Lincoln, and has since been loyal to Republican interests. He has held some of the local offices and he is a member of the Free Methodist church, with which he has been identified for several years. During a long residence of sixty-eight years in Branch county he has become well known, and as one of the pioneer settlers is certainly deserving of representation in this volume. His life history if given in detail would present an accurate picture of pioneer conditions here, for in the cabin home in which he lived all of the hardships of frontier life were met, and many of the pleasures incident to the settlement of a pioneer district were also enjoyed.

ALBERT SHEPARD.

Albert Shepard, station agent at Bronson, Michigan, enjoys the distinction of being the oldest employe on his division of the road. He was born in St. Joseph county, Michigan, January 4, 1847. His father, Jason Shep-

ard, a native of New York, came to Michigan at an early day, and in 1856 settled in Branch county, where he lived for nearly half a century, and where he died at a ripe old age, January 2, 1902. He worked at his trade, that of millwright, in Hillsdale and St. Joseph counties, and after locating in Branch county he owned and ran a flour mill at Bronson many years. The latter part of his life was spent in retirement. His wife, whose maiden name was Mary Miller, was born in New York state and died in Bronson.

At the time the Shepard family moved to Branch county Albert was a boy of nine years. After finishing his studies in the public schools he learned telegraphy and secured a situation as telegraph operator with the Lake Shore Railroad, a position he filled eight years. For the past twenty-seven years he has been station agent at Bronson, thus having been in the service of the road a longer time than any other employe. Among the investments Mr. Shepard has made is a valuable oil well in Marion county, Indiana.

Of his family we record that Mrs. Shepard was formerly Miss Jennie A. Miles, of Coldwater, Michigan. They have three children, namely: Charles A., a station agent at Fremont, Ohio; Grace M., wife of Charles Rockwell; and Bert, a telegraph operator on the Pacific coast.

The mysteries of Masonry Mr. Shepard has penetrated from the Blue Lodge to the Mystic Shrine. He has membership in the Lodge and Chapter at Bronson, the Council and Commandery at Coldwater, and the Mystic Shrine at Detroit. Politically he is a Republican and religiously he harmonizes with the Congregational church, of which he is a consistent member.

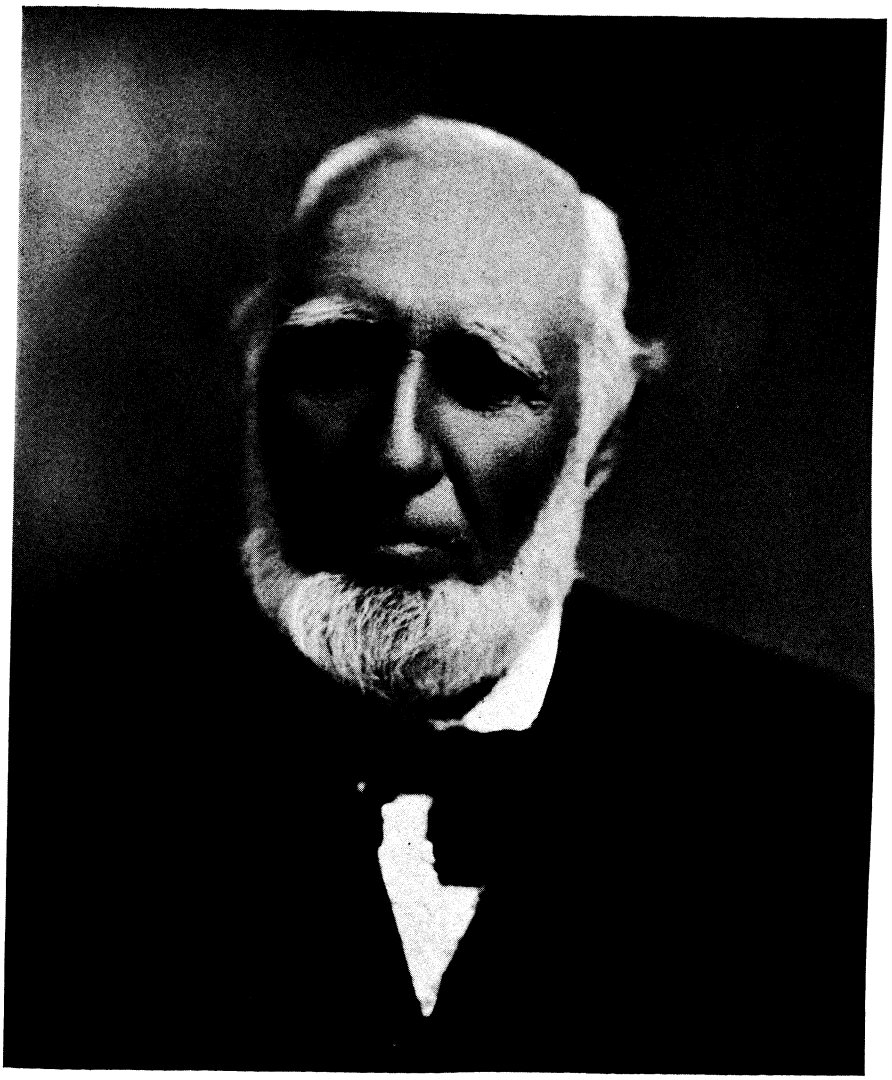
JOSEPH MILLER.

After a long life of industry and usefulness the subject of this review, Mr. Joseph Miller, is spending his declining days in well-earned leisure, living in a comfortable home at California Center, although still retaining his fine farm of one hundred and forty acres on section twelve, Kinderhook township.

Mr. Miller is a native of Highland county, Ohio, where he was born May 1, 1830. His father, Jacob Miller, and his grandfather, Daniel Miller, were both natives of Pennsylvania, and it is supposed that the Miller family had lived in that state for a number of previous generations. Our subject's father, Jacob Miller, grew to manhood in Pennsylvania, and there he was married to Elizabeth Protius, also born in that state. Soon after 1820 they sought a home in the then new state of Ohio, and accordingly made the trip there in the customary primitive manner of the times, locating first in Highland county, where they remained until 1830, then again traveling westward into Indiana. They crossed over the border into Michigan and finding a little settlement at White Pigeon, they decided, as it was then early winter, to spend the remainder of the cold season here. Accordingly they appropriated an empty log cabin here and stayed for a few months, Mr. Miller in the meantime doing a little prospecting on his own account. Passing over into LaGrange county, Indiana, he found here a suitable tract in Green-



Hattie L. Miller



Sincerely
Joseph Miller

field township and secured a deed from the government. Here he made a home, erecting a log house and beginning the clearing of the land. But Jacob Miller did not live long to enjoy the fruits of his labors, for he died here May 13, 1838, at the age of fifty-three years. Mrs. Miller was left a widow with twelve children to rear. She met her added duties bravely and well, however, and with the assistance of the elder children managed to complete the rearing of the younger children and to help them get started in life. She lived upon the old homestead until her death here August 16, 1869, and it was most gratifying to her to know that at this time all of her twelve children had grown to successful manhood and womanhood and that all of them were married and with homes and families of their own. Mr. Jacob Miller had not only secured the first one hundred and sixty acres from the government, but he also before his death had purchased over five hundred acres additional, seventy acres of which was over the border in Branch county, Michigan. After the death of the father and mother this property was divided among the twelve children. Of these twelve children only three are now living: Joseph, our subject; Salome Robbins, of Iowa; and William, of Illinois. The other nine died in the places named: John, in Iowa; Christinia Young, in Kansas; David, in St. Joseph county, Michigan; George, in Coldwater; James, in Noble; Adam, in St. Joseph county; Catherine Robbins, in St. Joseph county; Daniel, in Sturgis, Michigan; and Henry, in Iowa.

Joseph Miller, our subject, was but an infant of six months when his parents took him to White Pigeon, and after their removal to Greenfield township he grew to young manhood upon the home farm there. He was only eight years old when his father died and he lived at home with his mother until he had attained the age of fourteen, when he began to work for himself, his first wages being ten dollars per month. The first fall after he was twenty years old he purchased forty acres of new land in Greenfield township and earned enough money in one summer to pay for it. The following year he was married to Caroline E. Norton, a native of St. Joseph county, Michigan, and the daughter of Trumbull and Lois Alger Norton. Their early married life was passed in LaGrange county, Indiana, but in 1853 he sold out his possessions here and decided to try his fortunes in the far west. They started for Iowa in a one-horse wagon, leaving Indiana in the latter part of August and arriving in Boone county, Iowa, October 12 of the same year. He secured a tract of government land in Perry township, Boone county, and began its improvement. At this time the settlers were very few and far between and the little family experienced all of the hardships of life in a new country. In 1857 it was decided to return to Michigan, and this they did, locating in Kinderhook township, Branch county, where they owned two different farms before finally locating on the one hundred and forty acre tract on section twelve, which Mr. Miller still owns. Mr. Miller has expended much labor and money in the improvement of this fine farm and it now forms one of the most excellent farm homes in Kinderhook township. Mrs. Miller died August 9, 1884, leaving behind her a sorrowing husband and mourning children, as well as a large circle of warm friends.

She had borne her husband eight children, a complete record of whom is as follows: Clarence married Emma McNall and they have two sons, Theron and Earl, their home being in Angola, Indiana. Josephine Bordt died December 8, 1900. She had two children, Claude and Ethel, they living in Kinderhook. Lois Babb lives in Kinderhook and she has three children, Frank, Ella and Ralph. Arminda Ball is a resident of Sanilac county, Michigan, where she has five children, Della, Eliza, Minnie, Grace and Edna. Elsie died at the age of two years. Oscar died December 8, 1901. Frank married Vesta Gould and they have one son, Claude, their home being in Coldwater. Bertha Christina died in infancy. Mr. Miller also has five great-grandchildren, as follows: Mildred and Clarence Miller, children of Theron and Florence Myers Miller; Wilma J. Miller, daughter of Earl and Nellie Carruthers Miller; Mildred and Howard Delos Yates, children of Amos and Ella Babb Yates.

Mr. Miller's second marriage occurred November 10, 1885, when Harriet McNall Norton became his wife. By her first husband, Alfred Norton, Mrs. Miller had five children, only one of whom is living: Willie, Freddie and Ray died in infancy; Edgar B. died at the age of twelve years; Floyd L. married Alma Hall and they have three children, Audrey L., Jennie May and Oral O., the home of the family being in Chicago. Mrs. Miller was the daughter of two of Branch county's honored pioneers, Hiram and Harriet Barnes McNall, appropriate biographical mention of this family being made elsewhere in this volume under the article concerning Mrs. Miller's brother, Irving McNall, of Kinderhook township.

Mr. Joseph Miller was for many years a leading figure in the affairs of Kinderhook township and he was called to a number of local offices. He was a justice of the peace, township highway commissioner and constable for a number of terms and also served his school district as director for many years. Formerly he affiliated with the Knights of the Tented Maccabees and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mrs. Miller belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church and is also a member of California Hive No. 674, Ladies of the Tented Maccabees, and of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, of which organization she was record keeper for nine years. No residents of this portion of Branch county possess in a higher degree the confidence and true regard of the people in this vicinty than do Mr. and Mrs. Miller. Their home is a most hospitable one and their many warm friends wish for them continued prosperity and happiness for years to come. Uncle Joe Miller is one of the honored pioneers of old Branch county, and he has seen the Indians pass by by the hundreds on the trails.

GEORGE W. CLEVELAND.

George W. Cleveland, who is filling the office of supervisor of Batavia township and makes his home on section thirteen, was born in Lenawee county, Michigan, on the 23rd of February, 1848. His father, Charles Cleveland, was a native of New York, and when a young man came to Michigan. The paternal grandfather, William Cleveland, was a native of England and in

early manhood crossed the Atlantic to the new world. He established his home in New York and there resided until his removal to this state at an early period in its development. Following his arrival in Michigan Charles Cleveland was married in Lenawee county and there took up his abode, his attention being devoted to general agricultural pursuits up to the time of his death, which occurred when he was a comparatively young man of thirty-six years. He married Miss Emma Purdy, a native of England, who, when thirteen years of age, came to the United States with her parents, the family home being established in Lenawee county, Michigan. She died in Cass county, this state, when thirty-eight years of age.

George W. Cleveland was the fourth in a family of five children, and when seven years of age went with his mother to Cass county. When a youth of twelve years he went to Hillsdale county, Michigan, and the following year removed to Ingham county, where at the age of fifteen years he responded to the country's call for aid, enlisting as a private of Company G, Twenty-seventh Michigan Infantry. This was in 1863, and on the 30th of July, 1864, he sustained a wound in the right arm which caused the loss of his hand. He was in the hospital for ten months at Washington and Philadelphia, and was honorably discharged at the Chester hospital in the latter city on the 30th of May, 1865.

Mr. Cleveland then returned to Michigan and located in Branch county. For thirteen years he was upon the road as a traveling salesman, at the end of which time he settled in Batavia township, giving his attention to agricultural pursuits. He lived upon different farms for some years and then when his labors had brought him sufficient capital he purchased in 1896 a farm in Batavia township, where he resided for seven years. On the expiration of that period, however, he sold the property and bought the place on which he now resides on section thirteen. This is a good property, and under his care and cultivation has been made productive and profitable.

On the 18th of January, 1874, Mr. Cleveland was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Higgins, a daughter of James and Jane (Perkins) Higgins, and the widow of Arthur E. Filkins. She was born in Durham, Gray county, Ontario, September 18, 1853, and was sixteen years of age when brought to Branch county, Michigan. By her first marriage she had one daughter, Julia Arlene, who is now a teacher. She took a teacher's course in the Ypsilanti Normal and in the kindergarten department also, and she expects to make teaching her life work. She will also complete the Normal teacher's course. She has taught twelve years and is now in the city schools of Coldwater. By the second marriage there is a daughter, Grace A., now the wife of K. D. Lewis, of Grand Rapids. She received her diploma at the same time as her sister Arlene, and has taught four years in Traverse City, Michigan. Mr. Lewis is engaged in the insurance business, and they have one daughter, Katharine. Mrs. Cleveland is a member of the Episcopal church, as are also the daughters, the former is a member of the Centennial Bay View Literary Circle. Mr. Cleveland has been a life-long Republican, taking an active interest in the work and success of his party, and for four terms he served as treasurer of Batavia township. He has also been justice

of the peace and a member of the township board, and in 1905 he was elected supervisor, which position he is now filling. He is well known in Branch county, having taken an active interest in political affairs and public life, and his co-operation has ever been on the side of progress, improvement, reform and substantial development. Without any pecuniary or family advantages to aid him at the outset of his career he has always steadily worked his way upward in business life and his excellent farm is the visible evidence of his life of energy and thrift.

CORYDON M. FENNER.

Corydon M. Fenner, who for fifty-five years has been a resident of Branch county, covering nearly the entire period of his life, is now engaged in general agricultural pursuits on section thirteen, Ovid township. He regards his farm work as abundantly worthy of his best efforts, and his labors have resulted in bringing his place up to a high state of cultivation. His birth occurred in Cattaraugus county, New York, on the 13th of September, 1847, his parents being Collins and Lucinda (Meyers) Fenner. The father was born in the Empire state in 1821, and there spent the days of his youth and early manhood. Desiring a companion and helpmate for life's journey he chose Miss Lucinda Meyers, who was born in New York in 1826. In 1848 he brought his family to Michigan, settling in Branch county, and for many years thereafter was closely identified with agricultural pursuits, the family home being established and maintained in Bethel township. In his work he was industrious and energetic and all that he possessed and enjoyed came to him as the direct reward of his labor. He was always earnest in his advocacy of the principles of the Democratic party, which he supported from the time he attained his majority until his demise. He became affiliated with the Masonic lodge at Coldwater, and was a devoted member of the Methodist church there. He also organized the first Sunday school in Branch county, and he did everything in his power to promote the moral development of his community, while his own life was guided by honorable principles and characterized by manly conduct. He died in the spring of 1905, in his eighty-fifth year, and was laid to rest amid the deep regret of many friends, for he had a wide acquaintance in Branch county, and wherever known he was respected for his genuine worth. Unto him and his wife were born two sons and four daughters, of whom Phebe is now deceased. The others are: Marbry, Corydon, Charles, Calista and Mary. Two of the children were born in the Empire state and the others after the removal of the family to Branch county.

Corydon Fenner was only about six months old when brought by his parents to Michigan, and he was reared upon the homestead farm in Bethel township, where he remained until he had attained his majority. He early took his place in the fields, where he worked from the time of spring planting until crops were harvested in the late autumn. During the winter months he attended the public schools and gained a fair knowledge of the common branches of learning. On attaining his majority he was united in marriage to Miss Emma Buck, a daughter of Loren W. and Louisa (Smith) Buck,

a farmer and carpenter of Branch county, and one of the oldest settlers of this part of the state. Mrs. Fenner was reared and educated here. The year following their marriage the young couple removed to Ovid township, settling on the farm which had been purchased by his father. Mr. Fenner of this review, however, has cleared most of the place and has made all of the present improvements, which are modern in character and attractive in appearance, adding largely to the value of the place. Everything about the farm is neat and thrifty in appearance, and Mr. Fenner is regarded as one of the wide-awake, practical and progressive agriculturists of his community.

Unto our subject and his wife have been born four sons, Loren, Nelson, Jasper and Roland. Loren was educated in the common schools and also the Angola College, and he is a prosperous farmer. He wedded Miss Alma Crystler. Nelson is a farmer of Bethel township, and wedded Miss Millie Olmstead. Jasper is now a student in the University at Ann Arbor, and is pursuing a course in pharmacy. He taught school two years in Ovid township. Roland resides with his parents. The members of the household occupy an enviable position in social circles and the hospitality of the Fenner home is greatly enjoyed by many friends. Mr. Fenner votes with the Democracy and for one year served as ditch commissioner. Mrs. Fenner has an old copy of a newspaper entitled "Brother Jonathan," printed July 4, 1845. He recognizes the needs and possibilities of the county for material improvement and permanent development, and endorses all the plans tending to further the general good.

KIMBLE PARRISH.

Kimble Parrish, who assisted in building the first mill in Coldwater, and who since that time has been a valued representative of the city because of his activity in business affairs and his sterling personal worth, is now living retired, having passed the eighty-sixth milestone on life's journey. One of the most venerable citizens of Branch county, no history of this section of the state would be complete without his life record. He was born in Monroe county, New York, April 16, 1818. His father, Abram Parrish, was a native of Connecticut and spent his last days in Monroe county, New York. A farmer by occupation he followed that pursuit for many years in order to provide for his family. He married Hannah Shaw, who was also a native of the Empire state and died there. They became the parents of thirteen children, of whom twelve reached mature years, while one was killed by being thrown from a horse in childhood.

Kimble Parrish, the tenth in order of birth of the family, remained at home through the period of his boyhood and youth, assisting his father in the cultivation of the home farm and gaining a knowledge of the best methods of conducting the business. Lessons of industry and integrity were instilled into his mind and have borne rich fruit in an honorable and successful career in later life. In 1836 he sought a home in the west, coming to Branch county, Michigan, and on taking up his abode in Coldwater he began the manufacture of kettles, plows, carving machines and the building of saw

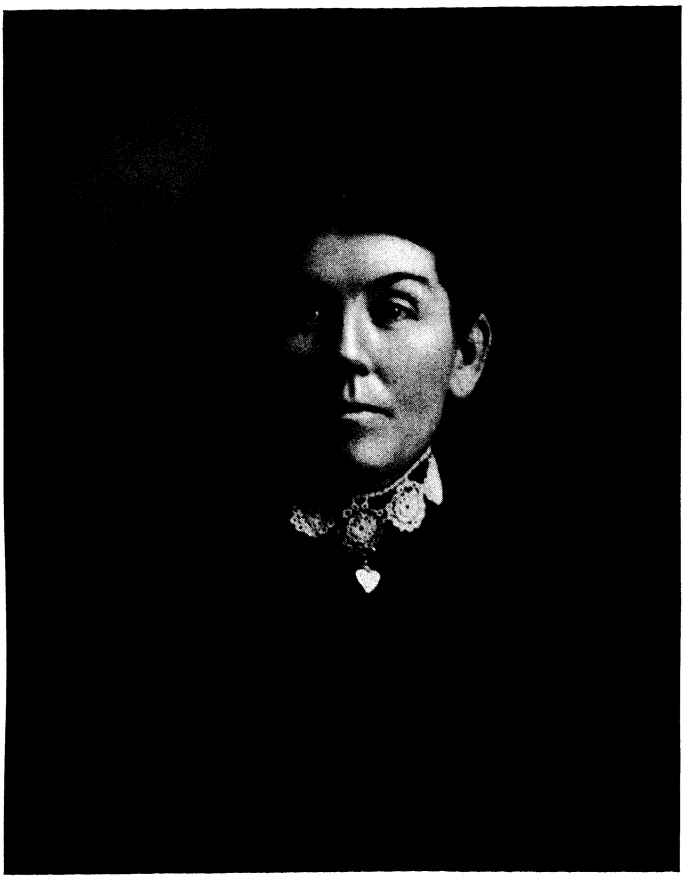
mills. He assisted in the construction of the first mill in Coldwater and was one of the early representatives of the industrial life here. He also carried on farming to some extent, hauling his grain to Hillsdale with a team. The unimproved condition of the county can be imagined from the fact that many Indians still lived in this part of the state and there were many wild animals in the forests, while various kinds of wild game could easily be secured by the hunter. The forests were uncut, the streams were largely unbridged and the lands uncultivated, but as the years passed great changes were wrought. Mr. Parrish bore his full share in the work of improvement and in addition to his efforts along manufacturing lines was also connected with agricultural interests. He has owned several farms and has traded quite extensively, and his business interests have been so carefully directed by sound judgment that as the years have passed he has accumulated a handsome competence.

On the 18th of May, 1843, Mr. Parrish was married to Miss Mary Chapman, who was born in Franklin county, New York, June 22, 1817, her parents being Edmond and Polly (Davis) Chapman. She came to Branch county, Michigan, in 1836 with her father, who was one of the pioneers of the county, and who was a native of Massachusetts, while her mother's birth occurred in Vermont. In the Chapman family were two sons and two daughters, Mrs. Parrish being the second child and elder daughter. By her marriage she has become the mother of two children: Lepha, the wife of George O'Keefe; and Rhoda, the wife of Samuel Parsons, of Sioux county, Iowa.

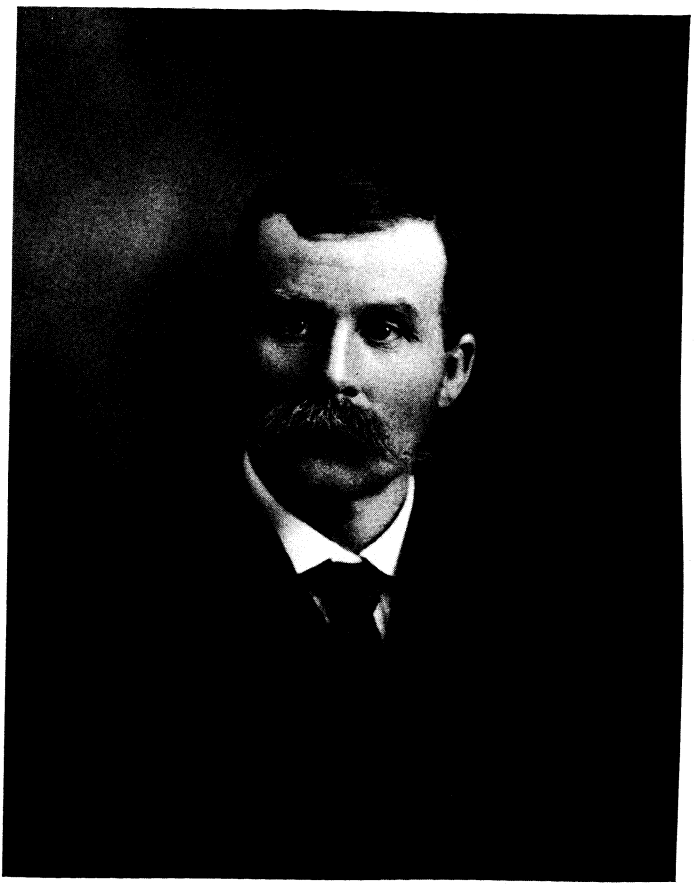
Mr. and Mrs. Parrish have lived for sixty-eight years in Branch county, most of the time in Coldwater, and are therefore numbered among the pioneer settlers. They have celebrated the sixty-second anniversary of their marriage, and through the long years have lived happily together, sharing with each other the joys and sorrows, the adversity and prosperity of life. Commanding the respect of all who knew them, they have a wide circle of friends in the county. Mr. Parrish was the first Whig constable of Branch county, and he has been a Republican since the organization of the party, voting for its first presidential candidate, John C. Fremont. He was at one time a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and for many years he and his wife have been devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he has filled various offices and has also acted as a teacher in the Sunday school. His has been an honored and an upright life. He has been true to the teachings of the church, has been straightforward in his business dealings and reliable at all times in his transactions with his fellowmen. He receives the veneration and respect which should ever be accorded one who has advanced far on life's journey, and all speak of him and his wife in terms of high regard.

LOREN R. BROOKS.

One of the oldest families of Branch county is that of which Loren R. Brooks is a representative. In investigating the history of pioneer times it will be found that his grandfather, Jesse Brooks, settled here at a very



Louisa L Brooks



Loren R. Brooks

early day and became a factor in the work of early development and improvement, and from that time to the present members of the family have borne their full share in the work of upbuilding that has wrought the present condition of advancement and civilization in this part of the state. Jesse Brooks was a native of Glastonbury, Hartford county, Connecticut, born March 31, 1791. In early manhood he wedded Miss Marinda Fox, who was born in Hartford county, Connecticut, February 7, 1794. The wedding was celebrated on the 1st of January, 1812, and the succeeding year they removed to Cornwell, Litchfield county, Connecticut, where they remained until 1818, when they went to Tioga county, New York, there residing for about seventeen years, when in 1835 they came to Michigan, making their way to Coldwater, Branch county. More than seventy years have come and gone since that time and the traveler of today, looking abroad over well cultivated farms and fine orchards, or visiting the enterprising and thriving towns and cities, can scarcely realize that at the time of Jesse Brooks' arrival here almost the entire county was covered with a dense growth of timber. The little streams were deflected from their course at times by fallen logs or other signs of nature's changes, and only here and there had a clearing been made in the midst of the forest to show that the white man had become somewhat conversant with the district and its possibilities. Jesse Brooks took up land from the government and with the aid of his son, Russell Brooks, cleared and developed a farm. He continued a resident of this county up to the time of his death, and when he was called to his final rest on the 3rd of September, 1872, at the age of eighty-one years, the county mourned the loss of one of its most valued and honored pioneer settlers, for while carrying on his private business interests he had at the same time contributed to the work of general progress and upbuilding. He had long survived his wife, who passed away on the 14th of April, 1846. In their family were fourteen children, but only two of the number are now living: Loren, who resides in Minnesota; and Mrs. Marinda Weldon, of Reed City, Michigan. After losing his first wife Jesse Brooks wedded Betsy M. Phillips on the 29th of April, 1847, and by that union there was a son and daughter: Francis N. Brooks, who died while serving in the Union army in the Civil war; and Mary L., also deceased.

Russell Brooks, who was the fourth member of the family of Jesse and Marinda Brooks, was born in Chenango county, New York, May 15, 1819. He was a youth of about sixteen years at the time of his parents' removal to Michigan, and he soon became familiar with the varied experiences incident to pioneer life when the frontier home was separated by long distances from mill and market and other evidences of the older civilization of the east. He became the active assistant of his father in clearing and developing new land. In early manhood he wedded Mary Jane Barner, who was born in Schoharie county, New York, September 2, 1834, a daughter of Joshua and Sarah Carolina (Wentworth) Barner. Her parents became residents of Batavia, Branch county, Michigan, and the father devoted his attention to general agricultural pursuits up to the time of his death, which occurred July 14, 1880, while his wife passed away June 7, 1873. They

were the parents of nine children, of whom seven are now living. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Russell Brooks were born five children, but Jesse A., Charles W. and Orcelia are now deceased. Those who still survive are Mrs. Carolina Hawley, who is living in Union township, Branch county, and Loren R., of this review.

In taking up the personal history of Loren R. Brooks we present to our readers the life record of one who has a wide and favorable acquaintance in Branch county. His birth occurred on the old family homestead on section 7, Coldwater township on the 15th of May, 1862, and he was reared to farm life, no event of special importance occurring to vary the routine of farming interests for him in his youth. His education was acquired in the district schools and when not busy with his text-books he worked in the fields. In 1883 he went to Missouri, where he engaged in farming until 1886, when he returned to the old homestead in Branch county, upon which he remained for a year. From 1887 until 1900 he was a resident farmer of Union township and then again returned to the old home place on section 7, Coldwater township. Here he owns eighty acres of land and he also has a tract of forty acres in Batavia township. His farm is well improved and in all of his work he displays a spirit of progress that has placed him in the front ranks among the leading agriculturists of his community.

On the 8th of December, 1885, Mr. Brooks was united in marriage to Miss Louisa L. Ellington, who was born in Bath county, Kentucky, January 28, 1861, and was the youngest in a family of nine children, whose parents were Alvin M. and Lucy Jane (Wilson) Ellington. Her father was born in Bath county, Kentucky, November 23, 1817, and her mother in Virginia, November 11, 1817, and they were married on the 8th of December, 1842. All of their nine children were born in the Blue Grass state and are yet living but one. The father, however, died in November, 1890, while the mother's death occurred in 1864.

Mr. and Mrs. Brooks have four children: Ina M., Earl R. and Carl A., all of whom are living at home; and Carrie, who died December 3, 1894. The parents and children are identified with the Methodist church and take an active and helpful interest in its work. Mr. Brooks exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Republican party and is now filling the office of justice of the peace in Coldwater township, discharging his duties with strict fairness and impartiality. While living in Union township he served as a school officer. He is a worthy representative of a prominent pioneer family and at the same time the position which he has made for himself in agricultural circles would entitle him to mention in this volume.

The lineage of both Mr. and Mrs. Brooks is English and Scotch. Mr. Brooks' grandfather Brooks was the first Sunday School superintendent of the Brooks Sunday School, now known as the "Centennial." He was a class leader in the Methodist church for many years in the county and in the city of Coldwater. In relics Mrs. Brooks has a specimen of needle work on linen. The cloth was woven in linen by her grandmother Wilson, and the silk was gathered from the silk worm, and this piece of handwork was exe-

cuted October 24, 1810, at the age of fourteen years. Mr. Brooks has an old gourd, used in the household, which is over one hundred years old, and they also have one of the old counterpane and double coverlets, which is fully 100 years old. They also have two old spinning wheels and reeds passed down from their parents and grandparents.

ARTHUR G. COPELAND.

Arthur G. Copeland, actively and successfully connected with agricultural interests, his home being on section twenty-one, Matteson township, was born in this township on the 3rd of November, 1849. His father, Robert E. Copeland, was a native of Ireland and came with his parents to America when eighteen months old, being a son of Isaac Copeland, who first located at St. Catherine's, Canada, where the grandfather was afterward killed. Robert E. Copeland, having lost his father, was reared by a Mr. Colt in Niagara county, New York, not far from one of the world's greatest wonders—the Niagara Falls. He remained with Mr. Colt until about sixteen years of age, when he started out upon an independent business career, working at any employment that would yield him an honest living. When twenty years of age he went to Lewiston, New York. There he was united in marriage to Miss Maria Lindley, a native of the Empire state, and in March, 1847, he came to Branch county, Michigan, settling in Matteson township, where he purchased a farm on section twenty-two. This he improved, clearing the fields and cultivating his crops, erecting good buildings and otherwise adding modern equipments to the place, which was all raw land when it came into his possession. He first built a little log house, in which eight of his children were born, but when his financial resources permitted he erected a good modern frame residence and the last two children were born on that farm. Upon the old homestead eight of the ten children grew to manhood or womanhood and seven are yet living. The father still survives and, having been born on the 4th of March, 1822, he has passed the eighty-third milestone on life's journey. His wife, however, passed away on the 15th of June, 1896. Coming to Branch county at an early day, the family shared in the hardships and trials incident to pioneer life and the members of the household have taken an active and helpful part in the work of public improvement.

Alma M. Watson was born in Colon, March 16, 1859. Married to Arthur G. Copeland, December 28, 1875. To this union were born three children, Lee, Ellen and Star. She has lived in this community all her life, except about four years in Kansas. She was converted and baptized in early childhood and united with the Colon M. E. church, March 15, 1891. She has always been an earnest Christian, was cheerful, saw and loved the good and beautiful in nature and in people. She loved her home and family. It can truthfully be said, she loved the Lord supremely, and her neighbor as herself. She lived the golden rule. She had been gradually failing in health during the past year or more and it was decided a few weeks ago that an operation was necessary. Her last words while sinking into unconsciousness were, "Jesus lover of my soul." After the operation she endured her

suffering bravely and passed into the unseen at 8:15 o'clock Tuesday evening, May 22, 1906, aged 47 years, 1 month and 29 days. Her remains, accompanied by her husband and brother, were brought from Ann Arbor on Wednesday. Funeral services were held at her home Friday afternoon, Rev. C. L. Beebe, her pastor, officiating. Burial in Lakeside cemetery. While no adult human life is faultless, her life was well balanced, unselfish, and beautiful. The Methodist Episcopal was the church of her choice. She believed and loved its teachings but was tolerant and charitable to all people of whatever belief. Her last words were words of faith and trust in the Savior whom she had known and loved all her life; thus closes another life work.

No stream from its source
Flows seaward, how lonely soever its course,
But what some land is gladdened. No star ever rose
And set, without influence somewhere. Who knows
What earth needs from earth's lowest creature? No life
Can be pure in its purpose and strong in its strife
And all life not be purer and stronger thereby.

Arthur G. Copeland is the eldest son and second child of the family. He was born in the little log cabin in Matteson township, spent his youth there and was educated in district school No. 9. He worked in the fields through the summer months and in the winter seasons devoted his time to mastering the branches of learning taught in the home school. He was married on the 28th of December, 1875, to Miss Alma Watson, a daughter of Robert and N. A. (Hunter) Watson. The father was born in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, and was one of the pioneer settlers of Matteson township, purchasing the first land that was sold within its borders, his place being located on section 18, where he opened and developed a good farm. He was a millwright by trade and he did his first farming after his removal to Branch county. His death occurred in the eighty-fifth year of his age. His widow was born in Venango county, Pennsylvania, and is yet living at this writing, in her eighty-third year. Mrs. Copeland is the eldest of five children and was born, reared and educated in Matteson township. At the time of his marriage Mr. Copeland located on the farm where he now resides, but in 1878 sold his property and went to Kansas, purchasing a farm in Crawford county, where he remained for five years. On the expiration of that period he returned to this county and again purchased the old homestead, on which he has since lived.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Copeland have been born two sons and a daughter: Lee, who began teaching when nineteen years of age and has followed the profession for nine years, was born February 23, 1878, and is a graduate of the Colon high school, thus having been well equipped for the profession which he has thus far made a life work. Ellen is the wife of John Staley, a farmer of Matteson township, and for five years she engaged in teaching school. Starr is attending school in Colon.

Mr. Copeland gives his undivided attention to general agricultural pur-

suits and is the owner of eighty acres of land, which is highly cultivated. He makes a specialty of raising mint oil, and he has also engaged quite extensively in raising strawberries, devoting twelve years to that business. In his business he is active and energetic, and starting out in life for himself empty-handed, the success that he has achieved is attributable entirely to his own labors. In public affairs he has been interested and he cast his presidential vote for Peter Cooper, for William Jennings Bryan, and is an advocate of the free coinage of silver. He was for five years clerk of Matteson township, for four years treasurer and is now justice of the peace. Both he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church at Colon and are well known and highly respected people of their community. Mrs. Copeland's mother, Mrs. Watson, has one of the old deeds executed by President Andrew Jackson, and it bears the date July 1, 1836. This is the eleventh of the deeds in the county of Branch.

BYRON W. BRAY.

Byron W. Bray, residing on Section twenty, Union township, is one of Michigan's native sons, his birth having occurred in Hillsdale county, August 30, 1856. His parents are Amos Crandall and Mary Jane (Bush) Bray, both natives of New York. The father was born in Ontario county and in 1851 came west to Michigan, settling on a farm in Hillsdale county. His place was on Athens Prairie and there he remained for about six years, after which he returned to the Empire state. When two years had passed he took up his abode in Quincy, Branch county, where he engaged in general farming until 1863, when he removed to Algansee township. He was a Republican up to within five years of his death, when he became a champion of the silver movement, believing in the free coinage of silver at the ratio of sixteen to one. He held a number of offices in his township and was always active in support of what he deemed would prove of public benefit. He died in his sixtieth year, while his wife, who was born in Canandaigua county, New York, is now living in Algansee township on the old family homestead. They were the parents of four sons and three daughters, all of whom are yet living with the exception of one daughter.

Byron W. Bray, the eldest member of the family, was a young man when he came to Branch county and here the days of his childhood and youth were passed. He remained at home until about twenty-one years of age save for a period of two years when he was employed elsewhere. He was married in Union township in 1884 to Miss Helen Buell, a daughter of David L. and Amelia (Wood) Buell, both of whom were natives of New York, and were among the early settlers of Branch county, settling here about 1860. Mrs. Buell is the eldest of five children and was born in New York. She was brought to Branch county when about three years old. Mr. and Mrs. Bray have two sons, David Star and Don Carlos Buell.

The home farm comprises one hundred and twenty-six acres and Mr. Bray also operates the old homestead of one hundred and seventy-two acres, also another farm of one hundred and five acres in same township, being thus extensively engaged in general agricultural pursuits. He is also

one of the large stockholders and the president of the Union City Creamery Company and he manages his business interests with care and fidelity. In politics he has been a life-long Republican, taking an active interest in the work of the party, and he has held various local offices, including that of justice of the peace. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to the lodge and chapter, and he and his wife are prominent and active members of the Order of the Eastern Star. In his life Mr. Bray has displayed the enterprising spirit so characteristic of the middle west and he owes his business advancement entirely to his own labors, being both the architect and builder of his own fortune.

WILLIAM PECK NORTON.

William Peck Norton, now living a retired life in Coldwater, after many years of agricultural interests, was born in the town of Goshen, Litchfield county, Connecticut, June 21, 1828, his parents being Jeremiah and Mary Ann (Peck) Norton, who were also natives of the same county. The father was a French Huguenot, while the mother was of English descent. He died during the early childhood of his son William, and the widowed mother with her two sons and a daughter afterward removed to Huron county, Ohio, where she located in 1845. There she settled upon a farm, which she continued to make her home until her own demise.

William Peck Norton was educated in the district schools, and when fifteen years of age he began to learn the cabinet maker's trade, while later he acquainted himself with the carpenter's trade. He was seventeen years of age at the time of the removal to Huron county, Ohio, and there he lived for some time. Seeking a companion and helpmate for life's journey in early manhood, he was married on the 31st of December, 1851, to Miss Mary Ann Angel, after which they removed to Norwalk, Ohio, where he followed carpentering until the 4th of March, 1857. In that year he and others of the locality left for the territory of Kansas, where they remained for two years. It was a very troublous time in the history of the state, for it was the precipitating of the Civil war, when Kansas was a contested territory of the pro- and anti-slavery people. After two years Mr. Norton removed to Missouri, where he remained for a year, and then returned to Ohio. Again he was identified with the building operations of Norwalk, first as a journeyman carpenter and afterward as a contractor, continuing in that line of labor until 1864, when he went to Nevada and to California. He continued working at his trade in the far west until the spring of 1866, when he returned to his old home in Ohio by the way of the Isthmus route.

On the 1st of May he arrived home and in June of the same year he came to Coldwater. He has since resided in Branch county, first settling upon a farm in Coldwater township about two miles south and east of the city. For more than a third of a century thereafter he carried on general agricultural pursuits, raising the cereals best adapted to soil and climate, and also keeping on hand some good grades of stock. He farmed until October, 1903, when he retired to private life, taking up his abode in his present residence in Coldwater. His home is a substantial brick structure of pleasing

style of architecture and is tastefully furnished. He now has a handsome competence to supply him with necessities and comforts and many of the luxuries of life, and amid pleasing surroundings he is now spending the evening of life in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil.

Mr. Norton cast his first presidential vote for the Whig candidate in 1852. He afterward allied his interests with the Republican party, which he supported until 1880, since which time he has been independent. Although not members of any church he and his wife attend the services of the Presbyterian church and contribute to its support. His life has been a very busy and useful one, and his success is the direct result of his own labors. Throughout his business career he would brook no obstacles that could be overcome by persistent and honorable effort, and his untiring labor has been the basis of his prosperity.

LEONARD TAYLOR.

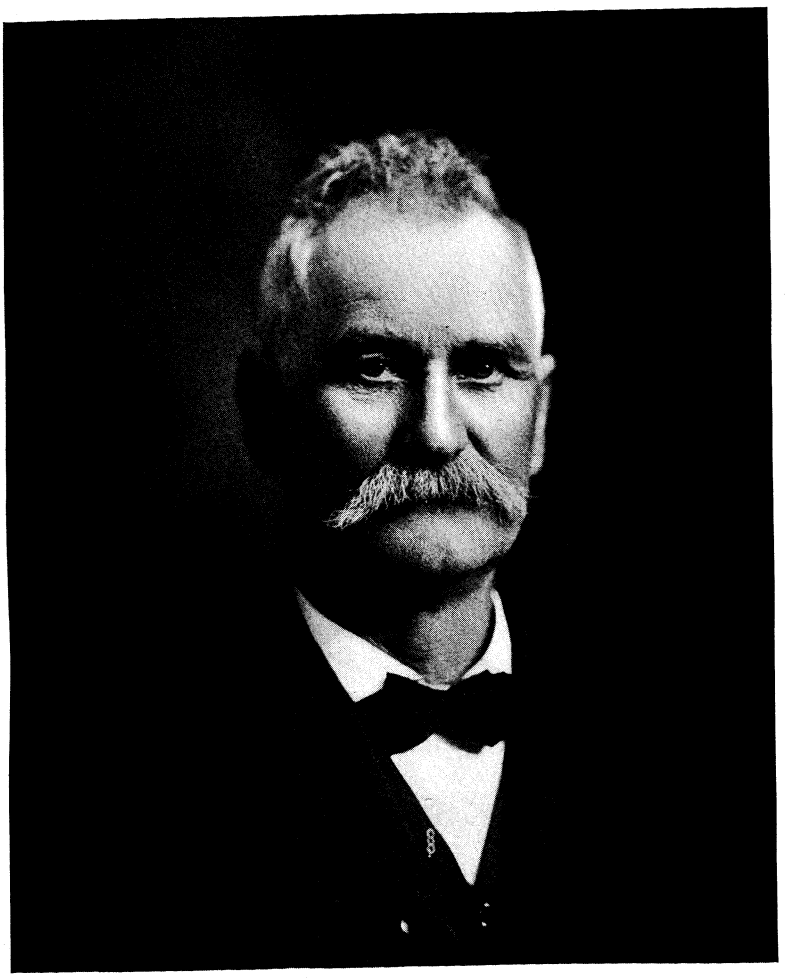
Leonard Taylor is the oldest settler in Batavia township in years of continuous connection with this part of the county. His home is on section twenty-nine, where he is comfortably situated, enjoying all of the necessities and many of the luxuries of life. He has now attained the advanced age of seventy-six years, and for three score years and ten he has lived in Batavia township. His birth occurred April 13, 1829, about twenty miles east of Buffalo, New York, his parents being Leonard and Carolina (Stranahan) Taylor, the former a native of Massachusetts and the latter of New York. The father engaged in conducting a hotel about twenty miles east of Buffalo, but thinking to have better business opportunities in the west he made his way to Clinton, Lenawee county, Michigan, in 1834, and in the following year he came to Batavia township, Branch county. Michigan was still under territorial government, and the work of improvement and development seemed scarcely begun. Mr. Taylor entered into partnership with John H. Stevens, who was the second sheriff of Branch county, and they conducted a hotel at what is known as the old Bodina stand, where they remained for about twelve years. From the government Mr. Taylor entered a tract of land, which was entirely wild and unimproved when it came into his possession, but after his retirement from the hotel business he began the cultivation of his farm and gave to it his energies and attention until his demise, which occurred in his seventy-seventh year. He was justice of the peace for many years, was also highway commissioner, and was one of the pioneers who was closely identified with the early history of the county, formulating many plans and instituting movements for the general good and progress of this part of the state. His wife passed away when in her seventy-seventh year. They were the parents of a daughter and four sons, of whom one son, Franklin, died in 1835, and was buried in the old Morse graveyard. George died when about twelve years of age, and Caroline is also deceased. The others are James and Leonard, the former a resident of Batavia township.

Leonard Taylor was the eldest in his family and was six years of age when he came to Branch county. His youth was passed in Batavia town-

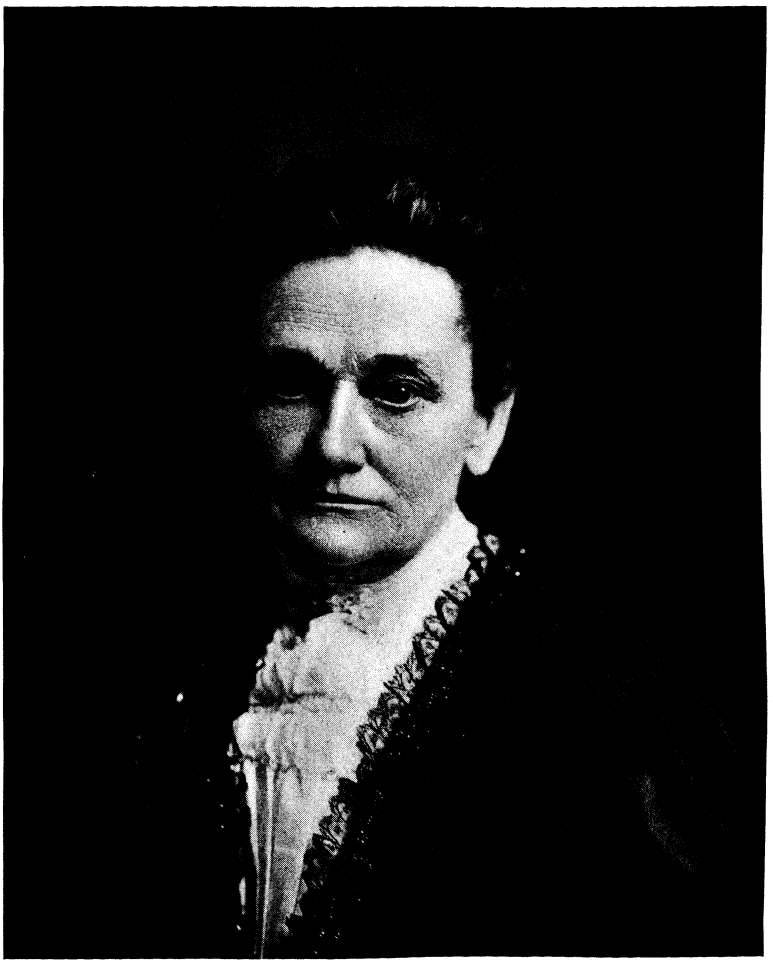
ship and he began his education in one of the old log schoolhouses common in pioneer days, his father furnishing the money to build the first school building of the township. It can readily be imagined that the methods of instruction, like the building, were somewhat primitive and schools held for only a brief period during the winter months, but in the summer season Mr. Taylor was not idle as his attention was given to farm work and he early became familiar with the task of clearing and cultivating new land. He remained at home up to the time of his first marriage, which was celebrated in 1852, Miss Roxanna Sweet becoming his wife. They had one child, Franklin, who died at the age of about sixteen months. Mrs. Taylor died January 4, 1854, and Mr. Taylor afterward married Laura A. Card, a native of Berkshire county, Massachusetts, born on the 14th of March, 1827. Her parents were Weden and Julia (Lamfer) Card and she was about ten years of age when the family came to Michigan, settling in Lenawee county, where she remained until her marriage. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Taylor have been born six children: Emma J., now the wife of Charles Noyes, of Batavia township; Lauretta, the wife of Loren Keys, of Batavia township; Julia Ann, who died when twenty-one months old; Freddie, who died at the age of eighteen years; Charles, a farmer of Batavia township; and E. Watson, who is also living in that township. Mr. Taylor has provided all of his children with good farms and he still owns about two hundred acres of land, which is a valuable property because of the fertility of the soil and the excellent improvements which have been placed upon the farm. He and his wife have travelled life's journey together for more than a half century, sharing with each other the joys and sorrows, the adversity and prosperity which checker the careers of all. He has been a Republican since the organization of the party and has been deeply interested in its work. He acted as justice of the peace, has been superintendent of the poor farm for about six years and as a private citizen has supported many measures that have been of direct and permanent good to the county. Seventy years have passed since he came to Branch county and he is authority upon matters connected with its history, while in his life he has advanced its interests. His memory goes back to the time when much of the county's development was as yet unaccomplished, the forests stood in their primeval strength, the rivers were unbridged, there were no railroads, no telegraph and telephone. The work of farming had scarcely been begun through the entire county and the Taylors were among the first settlers in this part of the state, Leonard Taylor of this review being the oldest resident of Batavia township. He certainly deserves mention among the honored early settlers and with pleasure we present the record of his career to our readers.

JAMES B. PAUL.

It is not our intention to trace within the confines of the present review the origin of the Paul family in this country, for elsewhere in this volume may be found interesting and extended genealogical matter pertaining to the Pauls, the same embracing a half dozen generations of the family, from



Jas. B. Paul



Mrs Emily D. Paul

those who first settled in this country down to the present youngest living generations. David Paul, the father of the subject of this review, was born in Argyle, Washington county, New York, April 16, 1819, and he was a resident of the Empire state until 1844, then joining the tide of western emigration and coming to Michigan and Branch county, settling on section sixteen, California township, where he spent the remainder of his life. He was a carpenter by trade, although the most of his time was given to farming, wherein he was notably successful, he finally owning over five hundred acres of land here. In the early history of this part of the county, and particularly that of the township of California, Mr. Paul was a prominent and leading figure and he was a participant in all movements tending toward the improvement of the country and the betterment of the conditions surrounding the residents here. Before leaving New York state he was married, at Argyle, March 11, 1841, to Miss Jane E. Hall, a native of that place, where she was born August 31, 1822. Their union was blessed with the birth of twelve children, two of whom died in infancy. The other ten, all of whom reached maturity, were as follows: John died in October, 1901; Elizabeth Quimby lives in Ovid, Michigan; James B. is the subject of this review; David H., Albert and Frank live near Seattle, Washington; George W. died in 1902; Wilson S., Allen W. and Mrs. Emma Vance live in this township. After long lives of usefulness the parents died here, Mr. Paul's death occurring November 20, 1890, and that of Mrs. Paul December 13, 1903. Many of their children and grandchildren still reside in this part of Branch county, where they are known as leading and highly respected people.

James B. Paul, the third child in order of birth of David and Jane Paul, was born on the old homestead, section sixteen, California township, January 26, 1847, and his home was in this township almost continuously until 1887, when he went west, locating in the territory of Washington. There he pre-empted forty acres of land and remained for a period of eight years, being engaged in farming and other enterprises. In 1895 he returned to Michigan and Branch county, which has since been his home. Mr. Paul was married, April 2, 1883, to Miss Emily Colvin, who was born in Kinderhook, Michigan, March 20, 1846. Her father was Oliver D. Colvin, born in Kingsbury county, New York, May 29, 1814, and her mother was Miranda Mead, also a native of the same county, where she was born December 3, 1816. They were married in New York state and soon thereafter came to Michigan, locating in Kinderhook, this county. They were among the very earliest pioneers of Kinderhook township, coming here in 1836, and secured from the government one hundred and sixty acres of land. Here they made a comfortable home and here they passed the remainder of their lives, with the exception of a very few years' residence in the city of Coldwater. Mr. and Mrs. Colvin had eight children, two of whom died in infancy, the others being as follows: Lydia E. Webster died in Brooklyn, Michigan; Hiram Colvin died in California township; Mary C. Hill is living in Reading, Michigan; Emily Paul is the wife of our subject; Ella Colvin died in Kinderhook; Sarah Paul lives in Seattle, Washington. The parents both died in Kinderhook, Mr. Colvin May 5, 1858, and Mrs. Colvin December 1, 1866.

Both were members of the Methodist church and people of high standing in the community where they lived for so many years. Mr. Colvin was a Democrat and held many local offices in the early history of Kinderhook township, while in 1846-47 he represented his county in the State Legislature. He assisted in the clearing of a large amount of land in Kinderhook township, owning several hundred acres during his lifetime, and was not only a successful agriculturist but also a man of affairs in other lines, being a leader in all movements tending toward the development of the section where he made his home for so many years.

Mr. James B. Paul since his return in 1895 from the west has made his home upon his farm on section sixteen, California township, the same being a portion of the old Paul homestead. The farm is an excellent one, under good cultivation and thoroughly equipped, and in its operation he is ably assisted by his son, Jay O. Paul, the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Paul, who was born February 10, 1884. Jay O. Paul was married, April 26, 1905, to Miss Lulu Braman, who was born in this county, she being the daughter of Charles Braman, a native of northern Michigan, and Lillie Smith Braman, who was born in Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Braman have been residents of Algansee township, this county, for the past five years.

The young couple make their home with Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Paul. Both J. B. Paul and his son, Jay O., are members of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows No. 283, at California, while Mr. and Mrs. Paul are members of the Methodist church. Mr. Paul in politics is now an independent voter and he has been called upon several times to serve his fellow townsmen, he having been highway commissioner several terms and the present director of his school district, a position he has held for the past eight years. He is a man of influence in the township and he and the members of his family possess the confidence and regard of a very large circle of friends. Mr. and Mrs. Paul have an old souvenir in the shape of a tailor's goose, which is over a century old.

C. ROSS WILLIAMS.

C. Ross Williams was born in 1868, in Algansee township, where he still resides. His father, James A. Williams, is a native of Sterling, Cayuga county, New York, born in 1820, and is of English and Welsh lineage. There was also some trace of Dutch in the ancestry. About 1853 he came to Michigan, settling in Algansee. He had been a student in the public schools of New York and had afterward attended medical lectures in Albany, and for almost a half century he practiced as a physician and surgeon at Algansee, but is now living retired in the enjoyment of a well earned rest, having attained the ripe old age of eighty-five years. In politics he is a Republican and has been supervisor of Algansee township. He was also superintendent of public instruction of Branch county and his activity in public life and his fidelity and devotion to the general good made him a valued factor in the progress and upbuilding of this portion of the state. He wedded Miss Mary E. Wilcox, who was born in Stanford, Delaware county, New York, in 1832, and was of New England stock. Her father,

Harry J. Wilcox, was a native of Connecticut, and following the occupation of farming, spent his last days in New York. He married a Miss Brown and they had a family of eleven children, including Mrs. Williams. James A. Williams was one of a family of five children, having four sisters, and of this number Mrs. Sarah Howland came to Michigan. Unto the parents of our subject were born three children: Herbert J. and Lillian, both deceased; and C. Ross, of this review. The first named became a physician of note and a skilful surgeon and his death occurred in Tacoma, Washington, in 1892, when he was thirty-four years of age. He married Lulu Reese, of the state of Washington, and they had one child, Reese R.

C. Ross Williams began his education in the schools of Algansee township and when not busy with his text-books worked on the home farm. His entire life has been devoted to agricultural pursuits and he makes his home on section ten, Algansee township. At one time he owned forty-two acres on section three of this township but has sold that property. He belongs to the Presbyterian church, at Quincy, is an Odd Fellow in his fraternal relations and a Republican in his political views.

JOHN W. CULP.

John W. Culp, for many years identified with agricultural interests but now living a retired life in Coldwater, was born near Lockport, New York, May 8, 1832. His father, Nicholas Culp, was among the pioneer settlers of Branch county, Michigan. His birth occurred in Pennsylvania and he was of German ancestry, his father being John Culp, but back of that there is little definite knowledge of the family history. Nicholas Culp was married in Newfane, New York, to Miss Phoebe Rockwood, who was born in Niagara county, that state. After their marriage they settled upon a farm in New York not far from Lockport and in 1837 they removed to the west, taking up their abode in Girard township, Branch county, Michigan. The journey was made by boat from Buffalo, New York, to Toledo, Ohio, thence by rail to Adrian and by wagon to Branch county, Michigan. Throughout his business career he followed farming but about 1864 he sold his land and retired from active business life, removing to the town of Coldwater, where his death occurred in 1873, when he was seventy-six years of age. His wife died in 1861, when about sixty-two years of age. They were the parents of six children, namely: Joshua, who died in Chicago in 1892; John W., of this review; Phoebe, the wife of Rodney Twadell, a resident of Quincy, Michigan; Jason T., who died in Coldwater in 1895; Laura, who became the wife of Charles Caldwell and died in 1874; Harriet, who married Alonzo Bennett and died in 1866. The father was a Whig in his political affiliation until the dissolution of the party, when he became a staunch advocate of Republican principles. Both he and his wife were devoted and loyal members of the Presbyterian church and were held in the highest esteem by a large circle of friends.

John W. Culp was only five years of age when brought by his parents to Branch county, where he has spent a long and useful life. He was reared upon the old homestead farm and gained a common school education, re-

ceiving such advantages as were afforded in the old log schoolhouses of the early days. During the period of his youth the Indians were still quite numerous in the county and there were many hardships and trials incident to the frontier life to be borne. He assisted in the arduous task of developing and cultivating new land and he remained upon the home farm until 1850, when at the age of eighteen years he came to Coldwater, thinking that he would find other occupation more congenial than that of farming. Here he accepted a clerkship in the general store of H. C. Lewis & Company, with whom he remained until 1858. In that year he formed a partnership with Ives G. Miles in a general store in Coldwater, but later they confined their attention entirely to the dry goods trade. Mr. Culp continued his connection with this business until 1869. During the succeeding five years he was traveling salesman of a New York house, carrying a line of hats, caps and furs. His health then failed him and he took up his abode on a farm in Coldwater township, where he continued to engage in agricultural pursuits until 1900, when he again became a resident of the city. He still owns the old home farm, however.

On the 10th of June, 1858, Mr. Culp was married to Miss Josephine Goodell, a daughter of Abisha and Barbara (Johnson) Goodell. Her mother died during the childhood of Mrs. Culp and the father afterward removed from Monroe county, New York, to Branch county, Michigan, in 1852, settling in Coldwater, where he died in 1861. Mrs. Culp is a native of Fairport, Monroe county, New York, and by her marriage has become the mother of two children: Minnie, the wife of Floyd Gage, a farmer of Coldwater township; and Charles, who married Harriet Rice, and resides upon his father's farm.

Mr. Culp has always endorsed Republican principles, but has never been an aspirant for office. His wife is a Presbyterian and he attends and supports that church, while his membership relations are with the Masonic fraternity, with which he has attained the master degree. Many years ago he also belonged to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mr. Culp is well known as a representative of a worthy pioneer family and because he has ever been found on the side of progress, improvement and upbuilding in public affairs as well as in private and business matters he is classed with the representative men of this part of the state.

NELSON H. ANDRUS.

Nelson H. Andrus, who has lived in Branch county since 1867, is one of the prosperous farmers of Quincy township, owning the old homestead of sixty acres in section fourteen. Reared on a farm and acquiring his education in Quincy and Kalamazoo, he has always been identified with farming as his active pursuit. He breeds and raises thoroughbred Delaine sheep, a branch of live stock industry in which he takes much pleasure and pride, and which has been very profitable under his able management. Mr. Andrus is also vice-president of the Quincy State Bank.

Mr. Andrus was born in Yates county, New York, October 27, 1852, and has never married, he and his sister Lucretia making their home to-

gether. The Andrus family came from England many years ago, settling in Connecticut, and later furnished members to the Revolutionary army. Stephen P. Andrus, father of Nelson H., was born in Montpelier, Vermont, and was a farmer most of his life, although a cooper by trade. He was a member of the Methodist church, a class leader, and a licensed exhorter, and in politics was a Republican. He moved to Michigan in July, 1867, buying the farm where his son Nelson now resides, but in the October following he passed away in death, having arrived at the age of fifty-six years. His wife, maiden name Lucina Rounds, was born in Rensselaer county, New York, in 1813, and died in 1875, aged sixty-two. Her parents, Samuel and Lucy Rounds, came to Michigan in 1837, locating in Hillsdale county, where they died. Her father was a farmer, and both parents were members of the Methodist church. Samuel and Lucy Rounds had nine children, of whom Lucina was the first, and the others are named as follows: Hosea, deceased; Samuel, deceased; Elzer, deceased; George, a Kansas farmer; Varnum, also farming in Kansas; Gilmore, a merchant in Cambria, Hillsdale county, Michigan; Anna, the deceased wife of Chester Stoddard; and Abbie, widow of James Clizbe, her home being in Quincy.

Stephen P. Andrus was one of seven children, as follows: Emeline, Walter, Lavinia, Eliza, Stephen P., Cornelia and William, all of whom are deceased. Stephen P. Andrus and wife had twelve children, who are accounted for as follows: Wesley P., who died in 1898, had for years been a prominent hardware merchant at Grand Rapids, and also represented Kent county in the Michigan senate. During the Civil war he enlisted from Illinois in 1861, and, entering the service as first lieutenant, was promoted to captain of his company in the Forty-second Illinois Infantry. He served throughout the war, was with the Army of the Cumberland in all its important engagements, and was wounded three times, the last time at Chattanooga. Lavinia, the second child, is deceased; and Lucretia has already been mentioned as making her home with her brother Nelson. Samuel, a retired farmer in Cedar Springs, Michigan, and who for a number of years was in partnership with his brother Wesley in the hardware business, had also enlisted with his brother in the Forty-second Illinois and served through the war, being sergeant of his company. The daughter Amelia died in 1861. Emeline is the wife of Israel Thickstun, a Pennsylvania farmer. Sarah is the wife of Miles Golden, a farmer of Quincy. Lucy died in 1904, Emily lives in Quincy township, Adelia is deceased, and Anna married Israel Kinyon, a farmer at Quincy. Nelson H. is the youngest of the children, and as the subject of this sketch perpetuates the family record for the benefit of future generations. Mr. Andrus is a staunch Republican, and stands foremost among the citizens of the county for public spirit and personal merit.

JAMES SWAIN.

James Swain, a representative of the educational interests of Branch county, was born upon a farm in Noble township, this county, October 25, 1867, his parents being John and Rosanna (Appless) Swain. The father

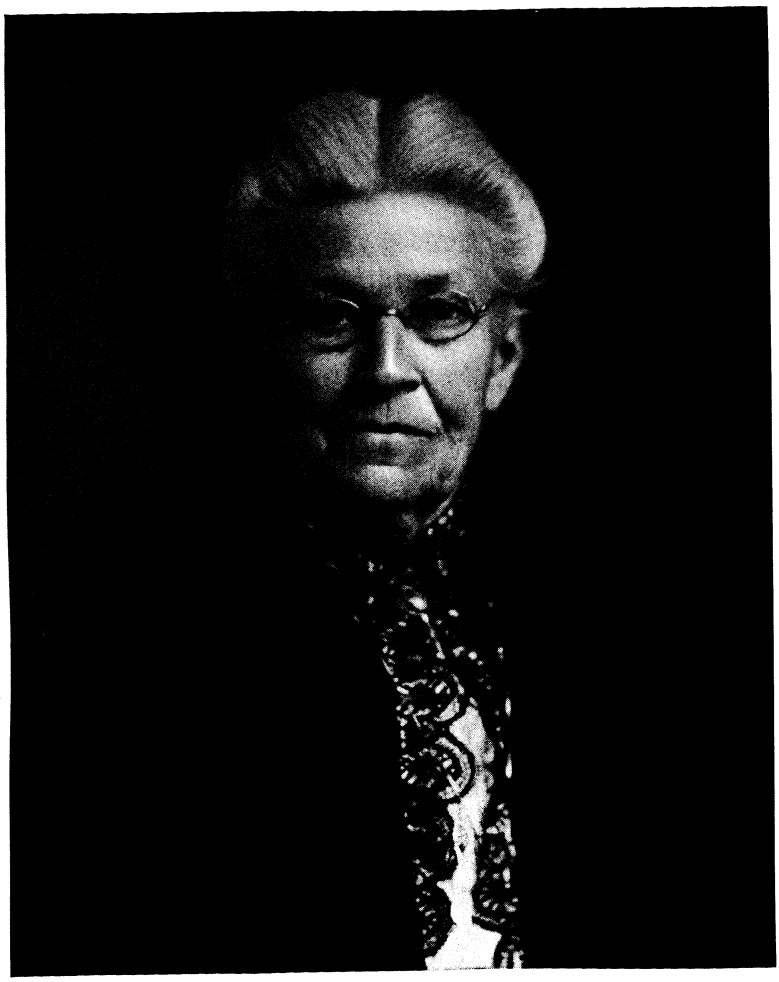
was born near Reading, Pennsylvania, and was of English lineage. He spent his boyhood days in the Keystone state, and when a young man went to Ohio, where he met and married Miss Appless. She was born in Germany, and died in 1900, at the age of sixty-six years. By her marriage she became the mother of seven sons and one daughter. It was in 1865 that the parents of our subject removed to Michigan, settling in Bethel township, and afterward in Noble township, Branch county. The father is a farmer, who has followed that work as a life occupation, and he still resides in Noble township. His fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, have frequently called him to public office, and he has served as supervisor, clerk and treasurer of his township.

James Swain, spending his boyhood days on the home farm, pursued his early education in the public schools and continued his studies in Burr Oak and in the Tri-State Normal College at Angola, Indiana. He was graduated from that institution and was also at one time a student for a time in the Normal College at Ypsilanti, Michigan. Thorough preliminary training well qualified him for the profession which he has made a life work. At the age of twenty-three years he began teaching and has since been identified with the development of the educational system of Branch county. He taught in the district schools for a time, spent six years as a teacher in Sherwood and two years at Bronson. In 1896 he was elected a member of the teachers' examining board. In 1897 he was elected president of the Branch County Teachers' Association, which position he held for five years. In 1903 he was elected commissioner of schools of Branch county, in which capacity he is now serving.

Mr. Swain was married in 1893 to Miss Louisa L. Russell, and they have three children, Elwood Thomas, James Russell and Beryl Louisa. Mr. Swain is a Master Mason, also holding membership relations with the Odd Fellows and the Maccabees. His study of the political questions and issues of the day has led him to exercise his right of franchise in support of the Republican party, and his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Christian church. He stands as an advocate of progress and improvement along all lines for the benefit of the county and has gained for himself a creditable position in educational circles.

MRS. ADELINE GRANGER.

Mrs. Adeline Granger is the only surviving daughter of James B. and Eliza (Ames) Tompkins, who were among the earliest settlers of Branch county, and the name is inseparably interwoven with the history of this part of the state because of the active part which its representatives have taken in reclaiming the once wild region for the purpose of civilization and making it the most habitable region with all the advantages and conveniences known to the older east. The father was born in Schoharie county, New York, June 28, 1804. He was married at Tecumseh, Michigan, in February, 1832, to Eliza Ames, whose birthplace was the town of Colchester, Chittenden county, Vermont, her natal day being March 3, 1813. Believing that he might more rapidly acquire a competence and provide a good living



Mrs Adaline Granger



Mrs Hattie Anderson.

for his family in the west, Mr. Tompkins came to Branch county and was among the first to establish a home in the hitherto undeveloped regions of Girard township, where he soon became known as the leading citizen—a position of prestige which was accorded him throughout his entire life. He was a surveyor and made the first survey in Girard township and Branch county, and he carried on general agricultural pursuits, developing a fine farm in the midst of the wilderness. He lived an honorable, upright life, following principles which gained him the unqualified respect and confidence of his fellowmen, and on the 1st of August, 1879, was called to his final rest, the community deploring the loss of one of its most valued citizens. His wife passed away December 6, 1902, at the advanced age of ninety years. Further mention of the parents is made in the sketch of J. Theron Tompkins on another page of this work.

Adeline Tompkins spent her girlhood days in her parents' home, where she was carefully trained in the duties of the household, and in early womanhood she gave her hand in marriage to Alexander Fox, who passed away April 18th, 1865, aged forty-four years and four months, also a member of one of the early families of this part of the state. They had two children: Mary, born in Girard on April 23, 1860, and died January 30, 1861, and Charles G., born in Girard on June 25, 1862, and died of smallpox in a Chicago hospital on December 17, 1881, when nineteen years of age.

The following lines were written in his memory by a friend:

Stricken down in the midst of the riotous city,
Far from dear home and a fond mother's care;
Poor boy, you are worthy of tenderest pity,
Poor hero, there are those whom your horror can share.

Most truly a hero, though never in battle,
Though death's battle lost is the hardest of all;
Though far from dear mother, kind faces were gathered
Around thy low cot in the hospital hall.

Pure Sisters of Charity hovered around you
In sweet ministrations where others would fly;
They closed thy sad eyes from earth's gaze forever,
They heard thy last murmur, Tell mamma goodbye.

The ring and the watch will ever be treasured
As relics sad of that saddest of days;
When poor Charlie was borne from the care of comrade,
To quell the dread ravage and keep it at bay.

The Infinite marks the fall of the sparrow,
And enfolds you His child with His wise loving arm;
He will throw the wide gates and free you from sorrow,
You are one of the fold, He will shield you from harm.

O, poor saddened mother and sweet little sister,
Think not of the form that lies under the sod;
But turn your eyes up through the shadows existing,
And see there a Heaven, a Father, a God.

Mrs. Granger became the wife of Frances Granger, of Tekonsha, Calhoun county, by whom she had one daughter, Hattie Granger, who became the wife of Dr. J. H. Anderson, and had two sons, Garnet and Granger Anderson, who are living with their father at Union City, Michigan. The mother died in Girard township, July 23, 1897. The following excerpt appeared in one of the local papers:

"Hattie, wife of Dr. Anderson, died Friday afternoon, July 23, aged twenty-three years. Hattie Granger was born in Tekonsha, September 10, 1874, and came to Girard to live when a small girl. She was married to Dr. James Anderson, of this place, July 1, 1892. Two little boys, one a baby two weeks old, came to them and need a loving mother's care. But our Heavenly Father knew best and has transplanted her to the Heavenly home. Mrs. Anderson was a general favorite and was a lively character, and will be much missed by her many friends and by the husband and children and mother, who is now left childless by her death. The funeral was held Sunday afternoon in the Methodist Episcopal church and was one of the largest ever held here. The sermon was preached by Rev. Pinckard, of Constantine. The casket was borne by six young married men, and their wives preceded the casket bearing the floral designs, which were very beautiful. Dr. Grube sang that beautiful hymn 'One sweetly solemn thought.' The interment was made in the Girard cemetery."

"It was long before twilight
On Friday that day;
The news had been scattered
Far, near and away,
That Hattie, our darling,
Had just passed away.

"She was willing and ready
Her task to perform,
And never did shrink
Though not very strong.

"She was jolly, light hearted,
And pleasant each day,
And always was willing
Her Master to obey.

"Her children and home
That she loved so well—
The extent of her love
My pen cannot tell

" Rev. Pinckard was sent for,
Our pastor of yore;
And preached just as beautiful
As ever before.

" The song so appropriate,
By Dr. Grube sung;
Will long be remembered
By everyone.

" One chair is left vacant,
One home is made sad;
There are hearts torn and bleeding,
And hearts that feel bad.

" Only a few years
Here did she stay;
When the Master called,
And she went His way,

" To dwell with the angels,
In mansions above;
Prepared by our Savior
With tenderest love.

" She was only a lamb
From the Shepherd's fold;
Now with the flock
Where there is no cold,

" No sorrow or pain,
No trouble or care,
And to live in a home
That the Lord did prepare.

" So, husband and children
And parents who are left;
Let your hearts be content,
For the Lord knoweth best."

With the exception of a few years spent in Tekonsha, Mrs. Granger has always resided in Girard township and for a number of years she cared for her aged mother, who passed away when nearly ninety years of age. Mrs. Granger still occupies a comfortable home in Girard Center and she has many warm friends in this part of the country, where the Tompkins family has long been prominently known.

CLARENCE B. SPORE.

Clarence B. Spore, who, from the age of thirteen years, has been a resident of Union City, where he is now well known as an extensive dealer in coal, was born in Carroll county, Ohio, January 17, 1856. His father, Enos Spore, was also a native of that county, and in 1869 arrived in Union City, Michigan, where he began the operation of a planing mill. He was not long permitted to enjoy his new home, however, his death occurring soon after his removal to this state. He had married Augusta Gregory, also a native of Ohio, and her death occurred several years ago. They were the parents of eight children, of whom six reached adult age.

C. B. Spore, the eldest of the children, spent the first thirteen years of his life in the Buckeye state and then accompanied his parents on their removal to Union City, where he has since lived, completing his education in the public schools here. He entered upon his business career as a clerk in a general store and was thus employed for about six years, when he turned his attention to the trade of a barber, carrying on a shop in Union City for about eleven years. He had a good patronage during that time, and his financial resources continually increased so that in 1889 he was enabled to embark in another business enterprise. He became a wholesale dealer in wood and a retail dealer in coal, and at one time he shipped thirty thousand cords of wood per year, making shipment to Jackson. He has been in the coal business for about five years and now sells to both the wholesale and retail trade, having an extensive patronage. He takes contracts from all schools and churches and has a large business, selling about one hundred and seventy-five carloads of coal per year, including fifty carloads of anthracite. His trade is constantly growing and has already reached extensive and profitable proportions. In addition to this business he is the owner of a valuable farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Calhoun county, about seven miles from Union City.

Mr. Spore was married in November, 1891, to Miss Jennie E. Walker, a daughter of Riley W. Walker, and they are well known in social circles in Union City, while the hospitality of their own home is greatly enjoyed by their many friends. Mr. Spore is an interested, active and valued member of the Knights of the Maccabees and the Royal Arcanum, while in his political views he is a Republican. Endowed by nature with sound judgment, he realized that work is the basis of all success and he has not feared that laborious attention to business so necessary to achieve prosperity, and this essential quality has ever been guided by methods that would tolerate the employment of a course that would bear the most rigid examination and by a fairness of intention that has neither sought nor required disguise.

FRANK SWAIN.

Frank Swain, who has perhaps built seventy-five per cent of the houses in Sherwood and is still extensively engaged in business as a contractor and builder at this place, was born in Linn county, Missouri, at what is now called St. Catherine, September 1, 1859. His father, Charles E. Swain,

is a native of New York and yet resides in Branch county. The son, Frank, is the eldest of a family of five sons, all of whom have reached manhood. He was only about four years old, however, when he came with his parents to this county, the family home being established in Union township, where he was reared upon a farm. He acquired his education in the district schools and the graded school of Sherwood and in the summer months he aided in the labors of the field. After putting aside his text-books he resided at home until his marriage, which was celebrated on March 1, 1884, Miss Elizabeth Shelts becoming his wife. Her parents, Jackson and Margaret (Hawn) Shelts, came from Ohio to Branch county about 1866. The daughter was born in Huron county, Ohio, and was quite young when brought to this state. At the time of their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Swain located in Sherwood in the home which is still their place of residence. He began contracting and building when a young man of only nineteen years, and has followed his chosen vocation extensively in Branch, St. Joseph and other counties. He has built a number of fine residences in the city and other places, and has erected about seventy-five per cent of the buildings in Sherwood, so that this place is largely a monument to his skill, enterprise and business ability. He has been very successful, and back of his prosperity is a thorough understanding of the builder's art, a conscientious performance of every duty and unqualified faithfulness to the terms of a contract awarded him.

Mr. Swain has always taken an active and helpful interest in local politics, giving his support to the Republican party. He served as a trustee of the village of Sherwood in former years and is now occupying the same office. He has held other minor positions, having been township clerk and a member of the school board, while in 1895-6 he was sheriff of Branch county. His duties in the last named position were discharged without fear or favor and he became a menace to all criminal classes, while those who hold themselves amenable to law regarded him with a feeling of safety. He has worked earnestly for Republican successes, believing firmly in the principles of the party, and he keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity and the Knights of the Maccabees. He has lived in Branch county for nearly forty years, and during this period has proven his loyalty to all that concerns public progress and improvement. He possesses a decision of character which never degenerates into stubbornness or impulsive haste, but has made him a man of firm purposes, commanding the respect and confidence of all. In social circles he is courteous and affable and at all times, whether in public or private life, he is regarded as a man of his word, his integrity being above question.

HUGH McMURRAY.

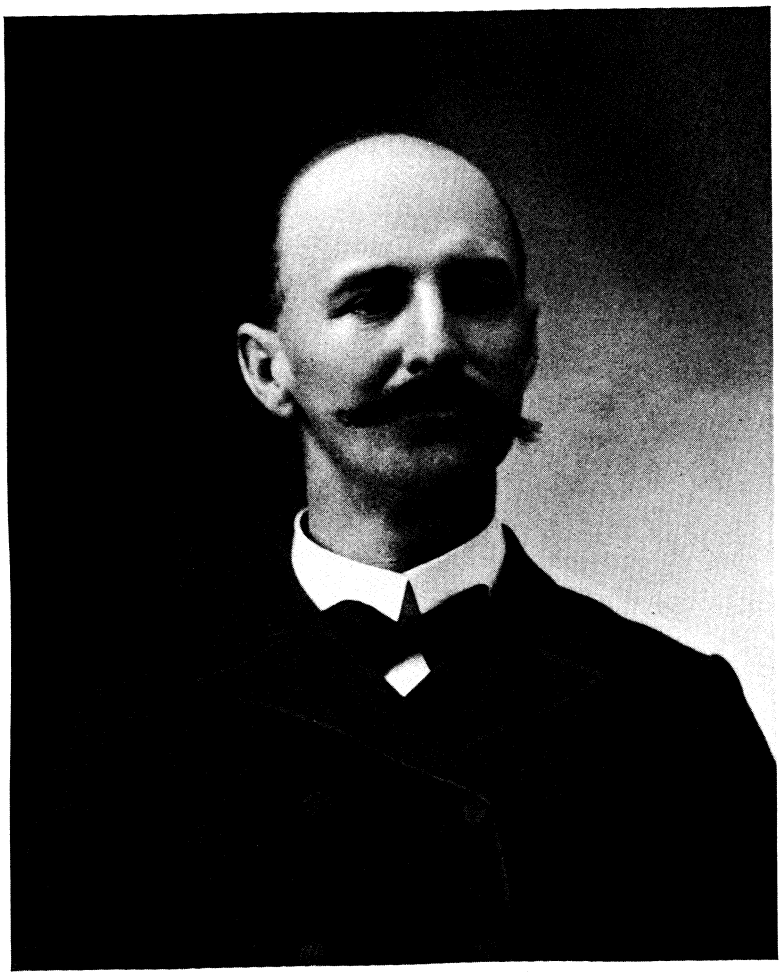
One of the oldest residents of the township of California and southern Branch county, where he is known as a prosperous farmer and a highly esteemed citizen, is the gentleman named above, Mr. Hugh McMurray, who has lived here for the past half century. Mr. McMurray was born near Belfast, Ireland, August 13, 1830, and like most of the residents of

county Down, where he was born, he was of Scotch ancestry. His father was John McMurray and his mother was Mary Frim, both natives of Ireland, where they spent their entire lives. Here John McMurray was a farmer, and he and his wife were members of the Presbyterian church and people of high character. They were the parents of eight children, all of whom grew to maturity, and nearly all of whom came to America, although both of their parents died before the date of their emigration. The record of these children is as follows: Moses came to Michigan and Branch county, and passed the remainder of his life here, dying in California township in 1880; Samuel made his home in Canada; John died in Ireland; William was in the English army; Hugh is our subject; Margaret and Nancy died in California township; and Elizabeth died in Hillsdale county.

Hugh McMurray learned the weaver's trade in Ireland, at which he worked considerably, also finding employment there in farming. He was only eighteen years of age when he came to this country, and his first home was near Rochester, New York, where he remained for a few years, then coming to Michigan and Branch county in 1853. Here he and his elder brother, Moses, engaged in farming and were partners until the death of the latter. Their first purchase was fifty acres, to which they in later years added several other tracts, and at one time owned two hundred and thirty acres. The most of this land was at the time of purchase uncleared and unimproved and they labored long and faithfully in bringing it under cultivation and in erecting the necessary buildings.

Our subject was married in the autumn of 1861 to Jane E. Greer, who was born in Armagh, Ireland, October 6, 1844. Her father was John Greer and her mother was Mary Ann Murphy, both natives of Ireland, although John Greer's father was born in Scotland. John and Mary Ann Greer were the parents of twelve children, five of whom died in infancy and early childhood. These were as follows: Joseph died in Ireland when twenty-one years old; George died in New York state; Robert died in Oakland county, Michigan; John and James died in Kinderhook township; William died in California township; Jane E. McMurray, the youngest of the family, and the only one now living, is the wife of our subject. John Greer and family came to America from Ireland in 1853, and they first located in New York state, where Mr. Greer died in 1855, at the age of sixty-five years. A few years thereafter Mrs. Greer, her son, James, and her daughter, Jane E., came to Michigan and Branch county, where Mrs. Greer died May 1, 1881, at the age of eighty-seven years. In Ireland Mr. Greer was an Episcopalian, while Mrs. Greer was a member of the Presbyterian church.

The marriage of Hugh and Jane McMurray has been blessed with the birth of eleven children, eight of whom are living: Everett died at the age of seven years, Moses at thirteen years and Agnes at nineteen years. Eliza married Dennis Bascom and their home is in this township; they have three children, Agnes, Floyd and Edna. John married Lillian Waldron; they have two children, Hugh and Lloyd, and they live here. James married Harriet Terwilliger and their home is in Toledo. Edgar married



P. Olney



Mrs. R. L. Gray

Vine Teeters and they have one son, Dean, their home being here. Mary married Warren Southworth; they live at Edgerton, Ohio, and have one son, Duane. Charles married Viola Hammond and they live in this township, they having one daughter, Rosaline. Alva married Anna Goodwin; they have one son, Herbert, and an infant daughter, and their home is in this township. Ella, the only unmarried child, resides at home with her parents. Thus it will be seen that this worthy couple in the later years of their lives are surrounded by their children and grandchildren, although they still occupy their own comfortable farm home. Once a year all of the relatives assemble for a reunion and these family gatherings are most happy affairs.

Mr. McMurray's first farm home in this township was on section six, but he has lived upon his present farm about twenty-five years. The place is well equipped with good buildings and under excellent cultivation, although of late years Mr. McMurray has not performed a great amount of labor himself. His has been an industrious life, and he has seen this section developed from new country to its present fertile condition. In his efforts to provide a comfortable home for his loved ones he has found a most capable helpmeet in Mrs. McMurray, who has shared his joys and sorrows for so many years. They have reared their large family carefully, giving them good practical educations, and now they see them with homes and families of their own. Mrs. McMurray is a member of the Presbyterian church. Mr. McMurray was in earlier years a Whig, but has been a Republican ever since the formation of that political party. His first presidential vote was cast for General Scott. He has been called upon several times to serve his fellow townsmen, being township highway commissioner for three years and township drain commissioner for several terms, while in the early years of his residence here he was school director for eight years and school assessor for one year. His life has been a long and useful one and his relatives and friends trust that he has many happy years still before him.

PERRY DARWIN GRAY.

Perry Darwin Gray, who since 1901 has resided on his present farm on sections thirty-one and thirty-two, Algansee township, where he has one hundred and eighty-five acres, and who is a minister of the Gospel in the Christian church, but is at present preaching for the Congregational church in the village of Algansee, was born on Christmas day, 1869, in the township where he now makes his home. His father, Darwin L. Gray, was born in Ashfield, Massachusetts, April 30, 1824, and was of Scotch lineage. In 1606 the Grays removed from Scotland to the north of Ireland, and in the year 1718 John Gray crossed the Atlantic to the new world, settling in Pelham, Massachusetts, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits. Robert Gray, the great-grandfather of Mr. Gray of this review, was a soldier of the Continental army and served throughout the struggles which freed the colonies from the yoke of British oppression. His son, Eli Gray, the grandfather of our subject, became the founder of the family in Michigan, remov-

ing from Ashfield, Massachusetts, to Algansee township, Branch county, in 1836. He married Betsey Lyon, a native of Connecticut, and a cousin of Mary E. Lyon, the founder of Mount Holyoke Seminary, at Mount Holyoke, Massachusetts, and a daughter of David Lyon, who was a native of Connecticut and was of English lineage. Eli Gray was the father of twelve children, of whom four were born of his first marriage, namely: Flavilla, the wife of Luther Ward, of Ashfield, Massachusetts; Eleanor, William and Robert. By his second wife, Betsey Lyon, he had eight children, as follows: Betsey, now deceased; Lydia, the widow of Hon. Jonathan Sherer, of Plymouth, Michigan; Sarah, the wife of J. E. Potter, of Nebraska; Mary, who has departed this life; Darwin; Jerome, a farmer of Glidden, Iowa; Ralph, deceased; and Edwin, who served with Company A, Ninth Michigan Volunteer Regiment in the Civil war and participated in many important engagements, but has died since the close of hostilities.

Darwin Gray had but limited educational privileges. He was always a farmer and came with his parents to Michigan in 1836, becoming one of the pioneer settlers of Algansee township. Although a poor boy, by thrift and industry he became a prosperous, successful and prominent man of the county, whose business reputation was unassailable, and he was equally loyal to every obligation that devolved upon him. Identified with the township through long years he stood very high in the esteem of his neighbors and friends as a man of sterling integrity. He became a member of the Baptist church in his early days and his interest in political questions and issues led him to cast his ballot for the men and measures of the Republican party. He married Julia Ann Archer, who was born in Orleans county, New York, September 25, 1834. Her father, Benjamin Archer, was a native of the same state and came to Michigan in pioneer times, establishing his home in Algansee county. He was a member of the Fifteenth Michigan Infantry in the Civil war, enlisting at Coldwater in 1861, and was killed at the battle of Shiloh. He married Miss Sophronia Schofield and they became the parents of seven children: Asher F. resides in Algansee; Benjamin, a merchant, at Hart, Michigan, who was a member of the Fourth Michigan Cavalry; Sophronia, the wife of Joseph Mallison, a farmer, living in Ferry, Michigan; and Mrs. Gray, who is the eldest living member of the family and is now seventy-one years of age. She was twice married, her first husband being Porter Fales, who was a native of New York, and came to Michigan at an early day. He enlisted for service in the Union army with the First Michigan Sharp Shooters in 1864, and sustained a gunshot wound before Petersburg. He was taken to the hospital at Washington, where gangrene set in and he died shortly afterward. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Fales were born five children: Ella, the wife of Robert Henderson, a farmer of Goodland, Indiana; Noah P., who lives with his brother Perry; Sabra, the wife of Albert Street, a farmer of Harrisburg, Michigan; Martha May, the wife of James Vannuys of Fremont, Indiana; and one who died in infancy. After losing her first husband Mrs. Fales gave her hand in marriage to Mr. Gray and there were three children of that union: Perry D.; Cynthia J., the wife of Ebba Corless, an engineer in the Quincy power house; and

George Milan, who died in infancy. Mr. Gray died on the 1st of May, 1897, and is still survived by his widow, who is now seventy-one years of age. She is a member of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Perry D. Gray was reared upon the home farm and supplemented his district school education by a course of study in the Tri-State Normal College at Angola, Indiana, after which he engaged in teaching school for three winters. He has engaged in preaching since eighteen years of age, having been ordained as a minister of the Christian church at Keokuk, Iowa, in 1891, by Elder J. H. Carr. He has served as pastor of the following churches: Golden Point, Illinois; New London, Iowa; Kirksville, Iowa; North English and Keota, Iowa; Decatur, Michigan, and is now preaching at Algansee. He returned from Iowa to his farm in 1897, settling on his present place of residence in 1901. Here he has one hundred and eighty-five acres of rich and productive land on sections thirty-one and thirty-two, Algansee township, which he manages and at the same time carries on his work as a minister of the Gospel.

On the 23d of October, 1890, Mr. Gray was married to Miss Myrtie P. Carr, whose birth occurred in De Kalb county, Indiana, on the 5th of August, 1872. Her father, James P. Carr, of Angola, Indiana, is a machinist by trade and became foreman of a large shop. He married May M. Fetterhoff, a native of Ohio, and both are still living. Of their two children one has passed away. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Gray have been born two daughters and a son: Julia M., born October 16, 1891; Mildred E., born March 9, 1896; and Darwin C., who was born September 2, 1900, and died October 5, 1902. Like her husband, Mrs. Gray is a devoted member of the Christian church. He has fraternal relations and both he and his wife affiliate with the Order of the Eastern Star. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party and he is filling the office of justice of the peace, discharging his duties with due regard to the equity and law of the case. His influence is ever on the side of right and truth and his labors in the ministry have been a potent element in the moral development of the various localities where he has served as pastor of the Christian church.

LEONARD FRANKLIN HUMPHREY.

Leonard Franklin Humphrey, member of the law firm of Newberry & Humphrey, of Coldwater, was born in Auburn, Indiana, April 16, 1862, his parents being Lyman and Fanny (Williams) Humphrey, who were natives of New York, but were married at Albion, Michigan. They lived for about five years at Auburn, Indiana, and then came to Branch county, Michigan, in 1863, settling in Butler township, where they resided for many years. They next settled in Algansee township, where the succeeding seven years were passed, when they took up their abode in the village of Canandaigua, in Lenawee county. There the father died in May, 1903, at the very venerable age of ninety years, one month and fifteen days. He had followed farming through his active business life, thus providing for his family. His widow still survives at the age of seventy-two years. They were the parents of five sons and two daughters.

Leonard F. Humphrey was reared on his father's farm and continued his education in the public schools until he had become a high school student. Not desiring to engage in agricultural pursuits as a life work, he took up the study of law in the office of William E. Ware, and later the firm of Barlow & Loveridge were his preceptors. He was admitted to the bar April 16, 1885, and located for practice in Coldwater, where he has since remained, being now a member of the firm of Newberry & Humphrey, with a large and rapidly increasing clientage. Nature seems to have endowed him with the peculiar qualifications that combine to make a successful lawyer, for he is patiently persevering, possesses an analytical mind and one that is readily receptive and retentive of the fundamental principles and intricacies of the law. He is fearless in the advocacy of any cause he may espouse, is quick to comprehend subtle problems and is logical in his conclusions. He belongs to both the Branch County and the Michigan State Bar Associations.

On the 25th of March, 1885, Mr. Humphrey was married to Miss Cora M. Stiles, of Coldwater, a graduate of the Fort Wayne (Indiana) Conservatory of Music. They have an interesting son, Victor S.

Mr. Humphrey votes with the Democracy and holds membership relations with the Modern Woodmen of America, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Methodist church, and his identification therewith is an indication of his character and the motives which control his relations with his fellow-men. His life history is notable from the fact that from the age of thirteen years he has been dependent upon his own resources, but early realizing that "there is no excellence without labor," he applied himself diligently to the mastery of his law studies and has displayed the same close application, indefatigable energy and laudable ambition and determination in the conduct of his legal business since becoming a member of the bar of Coldwater.

HON. AMOS MATTESON GARDNER.

Hon. Amos M. Gardner, numbered with the prominent farmers of Branch county, is living on section eleven, Matteson township. His birth occurred in the town of Burlington, Otsego county, New York, March 18, 1833. The family is of Scotch origin and was founded in America at an early day. The grandfather, Samuel Gardner, died in New York. The father, Hiram Gardner, was a native of Vermont, where he remained until about eighteen years of age, when he removed to Otsego county, New York. He was a farmer by occupation, always following that pursuit in order to provide for his family. In Otsego county he was married to Miss Permelia Matteson, a native of Rhode Island and a daughter of Amos Matteson, who came to Michigan about 1833, locating on the banks of Matteson lake. The township of Matteson was named in his honor, for he was one of its first settlers and a most progressive citizen, who contributed in large measure to the work of public improvement. In 1836 Mr. Gardner arrived in Branch county and the following year he brought his family, settling in Matteson township, where he entered from the govern-

ment three tracts of land of eighty acres each, which is still in possession of the family. He became closely identified with the events which constituted the early annals of the county, and did all in his power to improve upon the methods which were calculated to advance the interests of this part of the state. He served as supervisor of his township for many years and was one of the commissioners to locate the county seat. Prominent and influential in public affairs he had a very wide acquaintance and did much toward molding public thought and opinion in Branch county. His political allegiance was always given to the Democracy, and while taking an active part in matters relating to the general good he also carefully promoted his business interests and improved an excellent farm. He died in his seventy-fifth year, respected and honored by all who knew him.

Unto him and his wife were born eight children, three sons and five daughters. One of the sons was shot at an early date, while waiting for deer in the night. The others reached adult age and six of the number are now living, A. M. Gardner being the eldest. The others are: Samuel; Eunice, the wife of John Benedict, of Niles, Michigan; Delia, the wife of George Clark, of Constantine, Michigan; Celinda, the wife of M. Daniels of Sherwood, this state; and Parmelia, the wife of C. H. Goodwin, of Colon, Michigan.

A. M. Gardner was only four years old when he was brought by his parents to Branch county, the family home being established in Matteson township. On the journey hither from the state of New York they came as far as Buffalo on the old Erie canal, and incidents along this canal Mr. Gardner can recall as if but yesterday. From Buffalo to Monroe, Michigan, the journey was continued on a boat, and from Monroe to Adrian, Michigan, they came via the old wooden railroad drawn by horses. Thence from Adrian to Matteson the Gardner family were met by an ox-team owned by Joseph Rudd, and the entire trip to the township of Matteson was made in this pioneer style. The family lived with Grandfather Amos Matteson till October, when they moved into a primitive log cabin which had no windows, doors nor floor. There were plenty of wolves and deer, and once in a while a bear was to be seen. He has seen many of the red men or Indians, and there was a trail that ran across the Gardner estate on down southeast near the old county seat, Branch. Mr. Gardner has killed deer in Matteson township. Among his relics he has a mirror close to one hundred years old and given him by his mother. When they came to Branch county the mail came once each month, and each letter cost twenty-five cents, while now the mail is delivered at the door each day. He has used the old four-fingered cradle, having thus cut hundreds of acres. He has lived, as it were, in the Victorian age, when all of the great inventions of the present twentieth century, such as the great railway systems, the telegraph, the telephone, the rural free delivery and other great improvements have been made since he has been a resident of Branch county. Mr. Gardner was reared upon his father's farm, acquiring his education in a little log schoolhouse of the early days, where he pursued his studies for about two months each year. During the remainder of the year he worked

at farm labor and in the winter that he was twenty-four years of age he attended the Culver school in Matteson township. Reading, observation and experience, however, have largely broadened his knowledge and made him a well informed man. He spent two summers in Kansas, engaged in farming, having entered from the government a claim of one hundred and sixty acres in Coffey county. Following his return to Branch county, in partnership with his brother Samuel, he rented his father's farm for three years and then with the capital he had acquired through his own labors he purchased one hundred acres in the midst of the green forest, incurring an indebtedness of two thousand dollars by so doing. With characteristic energy he began clearing this property and cultivating the fields and he has added to his landed possessions from time to time until he now has three hundred and twenty acres, constituting a well improved farm. Upon this is a modern residence, large and substantial barns and other outbuildings for the shelter of grain and stock. In fact, there is no equipment of a model farm lacking, and everything about the place is indicative of the careful supervision of a progressive owner.

On January 1, 1863, Mr. Gardner was married to Miss Ellen Wheeler, of Franklin, Lenawee county, Michigan, who died June 9, 1886, leaving four children, namely: Ella, now the wife of Eli Keyes, of Decatur, Michigan; Gertie, the wife of T. D. Turner, a resident farmer of Matteson township; Donna, a teacher in the schools of Coldwater; and Bernice, the wife of Arthur Stoute, of Kalamazoo, Michigan. In 1890 Mr. Gardner was again married, his second union being with Sarah Johnson, a daughter of J. O. and Julia Johnson. Mrs. Gardner was born in Matteson township, where she has spent her entire life.

At one time Mr. Gardner was actively interested in politics and was a stanch and unfaltering advocate of the Republican party. He served as supervisor of Matteson township for ten years, and in 1884 was elected to the state legislature, representing his district for one term. He has been the champion of all plans and measures instituted for the good of the community and with the history of Branch county and its development he has been closely identified. He has seen it transformed from a wilderness to its present condition of high cultivation and of superior industrial and commercial achievement. He is now the oldest living resident of Matteson township, having made his home within its borders for sixty-eight years, and his mind bears the impress of the historic annals of the county and state and forms a connecting link between the primitive past and the progressive present. His life has been actuated by principles of integrity and worth and his career has reflected credit and honor upon his fellow townsmen who have honored him.

FRED J. CONKLIN.

Fred J. Conklin, following the occupation of farming in Ovid township, is living on section sixteen, where he owns and operates one hundred and fourteen acres of land devoted to general agricultural pursuits. The property is well improved, indicating in its excellent appearance the careful

supervision of the owner. Mr. Conklin is a native son of this township, having been born on the 12th of August, 1864. His father, James D. Conklin, was one of the early settlers and representative citizens of Branch county and was a native of Genesee county, New York, where his birth occurred in 1827. He came to Branch county when about twenty-three years of age, settling in Ovid township upon a farm on section thirty-six. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land and at once began to cultivate and improve the property, transforming the tract into very productive fields. A few years after his arrival here he was married to Miss May Wolf, a native of Ohio, in which state she was also reared. She journeyed to Michigan with her parents, who traveled across the country and through the "dismal swamp." By her marriage she became the mother of seven children, four sons and three daughters, of whom Fred J. Conklin was the fourth child and third son. Three of the number are now deceased. All were born and reared in Branch county. The parents hold membership in the Baptist church and are highly esteemed as worthy pioneer people who have contributed in substantial measure to the development and upbuilding of this part of the state. In his political views Mr. Conklin has always been a Republican and for eight years served as justice of the peace, while for several terms he was township clerk. He was a member of the school board, and everything that tends to advance intellectual, material or moral progress receives his endorsement and co-operation.

Fred J. Conklin was reared in Kinderhook township, and was a district school student in his youth, thereby acquiring a fair knowledge of the branches of English learning. In the summer months he assisted his father in the operation of the home farm, continuing to work in the fields up to the time of his marriage, which occurred in Branch county on the 1st of December, 1885, the lady of his choice being Miss Laura A. Paradine, who was born in Ovid township on the 3d of April, 1867, and is a daughter of William W. and Sarah (Higgins) Paradine, who emigrated from Ohio to Michigan at an early day. The father was born in England in 1836 and left that country for the United States in 1855. He first located on a farm near Cleveland, Ohio, but after two years came to Branch county, settling in Ovid township, where he reared his family. He, too, has been a life-long Republican and takes an active interest in politics.

Fred J. Conklin took up his abode on his present farm in 1892, having here one hundred and fourteen acres of land which is rich and arable and responds readily to the care and cultivation which he bestows upon it. He uses the latest improved machinery in tilling the soil and harvesting the crops and is thoroughly up-to-date in his methods of farm work, securing through his unremitting diligence and perseverance a very desirable competence.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Conklin has been blessed with a son and two daughters, but the son, James W., who was born June 17, 1894, died on the 26th of September, 1895. The daughters are: Gertrude B., who was born October 20, 1886; and Leona M., March 29, 1889. Both Mr. and Mrs. Conklin are widely known in this part of the state and enjoy the

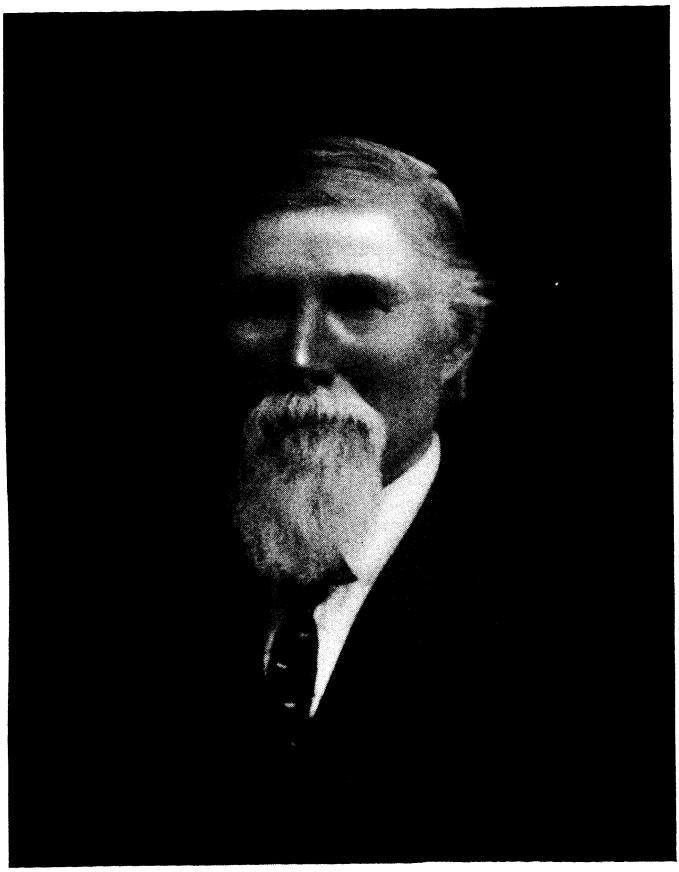
friendship of many with whom they have come in contact. He has always been deeply interested in the work of public improvement and progress and his fellow townsmen have frequently called him to office. He served as treasurer of Kinderhook township for two terms and has been clerk of Ovid township for three terms. In the spring of 1905 he was elected supervisor on the Republican ticket and is now filling that office, exercising his official prerogatives in support of those plans and measures which are destined to prove of benefit to the community at large.

ALVARADO B. RANSOM.

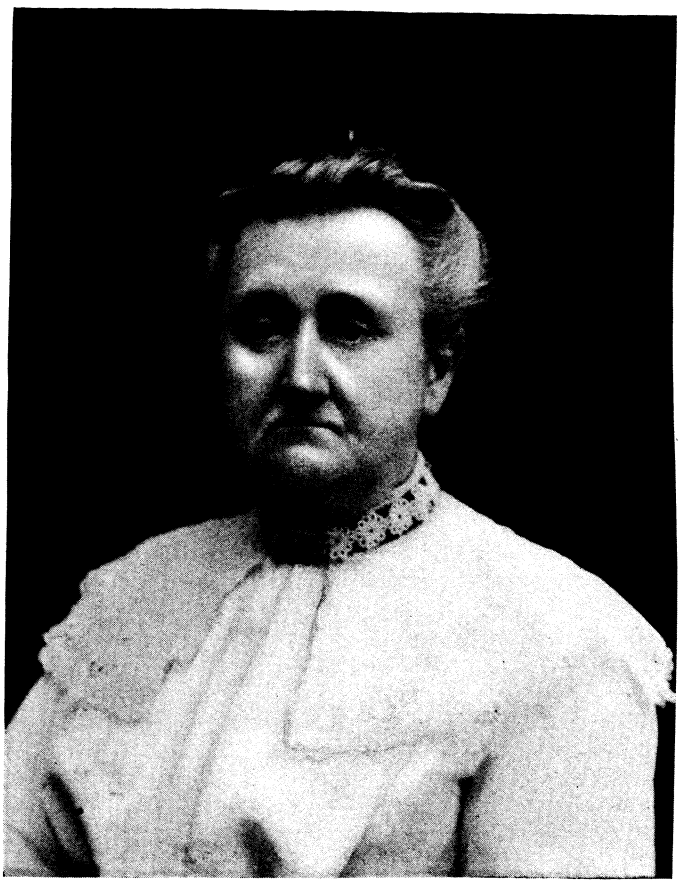
Alvarado B. Ransom was born on the farm on which he now resides, on section two, Algansee township, his natal day being December 11, 1846. His father, Francis D. Ransom, was a native of Cayuga county, New York, was of English descent and died in the year 1884. His son spent his youth upon the old homestead farm, on which his father had located during the pioneer epoch in the history of the county. He worked in the fields during his boyhood days and has always devoted his energies to agricultural pursuits and throughout his business career has made a specialty of the raising of Durham stock. In all of his work he is enterprising and manages his affairs with good business ability and keen discernment, his labors therefore bringing him a justly merited return. He likewise owns an interest in the Quincy National Bank building, at Quincy, Michigan.

June 8, 1872, Alvarado B. Ransom was married to Sarah E. Handy, who was born in Greece township, Monroe county, New York, August 9, 1847. Her father, Cyrus Handy, was likewise a native of Connecticut, and on removing to the middle west in 1846 settled first in Indiana, where he remained for forty years. He then came to Michigan, where he resided for a short time, after which he returned to the Hoosier state. He was a farmer by occupation and his labors brought him a fair measure of success. His religious views were indicated by his membership in the Baptist church and by his active work for the furtherance of all of its different departments of labor. In politics he was a Republican and for a number of years was justice of the peace, discharging his duties with due regard to the equity and law of the case. He married Miss Maria Cole, a native of Ovid, Seneca county, New York, and both have passed away. In their family were the following named: Stephen, deceased; Mrs. Ransom; Matilda, who married and has now departed this life; Homer, a farmer and carpenter, residing in Fremont, Muskegon county, Michigan; Hiram, who follows farming near Clear Lake, Indiana; and Mattie, deceased.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Ransom have been born four children, but they lost their first born, Alma. Nettie is the wife of George Thompson, of Quincy, Michigan. Maude is at home. Florence is the wife of Earl Shoemaker, who is living on her father's farm. The parents are members of the Algansee Baptist church, in which Mr. Ransom has served as deacon and he has ever taken an active and helpful part in church and Sunday-school work, doing everything in his power to promote the growth and extend the influence of the church. He likewise belongs to the Grange and is a Republi-



H B Ransom



Mrs Sarah E Ransom

can in his political views. Having been called to office he has served as justice of the peace and highway commissioner, and is a man reliable and trustworthy in all life's relations, whether in public office, in business affairs or in social circles.

James A. Ransom, bother of Alvarado B. Ransom, was born in Elbridge, Onondaga county, New York, in 1838, and he, too, was reared to farm life and acquired his education in the district schools. He was a teacher in a writing school for two terms but otherwise has always followed the occupation of farming. He became a resident of Michigan in 1842 and settled on a farm now owned by his brother Alvarado. At the present writing his home is on section two, Algansee township, where he owns and operates one hundred and twenty acres of land.

In 1862 James Ransom wedded Mary A. Finney, who was born in Ovid township, this county, October 2, 1845, and died December 13, 1866. Her father, Luther Finney, was a native of Canada and came to Branch county at a very early day, settling in Ovid township, where he followed the occupation of farming. Subsequently he removed to Algansee, where his death occurred. His wife bore the maiden name of Miss Butterfield.

Unto James Ransom by his first marriage were born two children: Chloe, who became the wife of Edward Fillmore and after his death married Charles Wheeler, but is now deceased; and Adella J., who married Wesley Darling, and after his death became the wife of Joseph Moore, a painter, living in Oakland county, Michigan. For his second wife James Ransom chose Arzena A. Hayes, in 1868. She was born in Onondaga county, July 19, 1841, and passed away on the 25th of February, 1875. Her parents, Hiram and Almeda Hayes, were natives of New York and came to Michigan about 1856, settling in the town of Quincy, where the father followed the occupation of farming. By this marriage there were three children: Carrie, the wife of Louis Van Geisen, who is living on the Upper Peninsula; George H., a farmer, residing in Quincy township; and Harley D., of Reading township. The sons are also married. Mr. Ransom's third wife, whom he married in 1878, bore the maiden name of Ella L. Darling, and was born in Hillsdale county, Michigan, in 1851, a daughter of Benjamin and Lovisa Darling. Her parents were natives of the state of New York, and came to Michigan in 1837. By the third marriage there are five children: Olive L., who was born September 20, 1879, and is the wife of Varney W. Ferguson, living on her father's farm; Adelbert J., who was born in 1881, and is at home; Almeda, who was born August 31, 1883, and is deceased; Francis D., who was born September 8, 1885, and is living on the home place; and Helen D., who died April 15, 1905, at the age of seventeen years. Mrs. James Ransom died November 6, 1905, a Christian lady, and her remains are interred in "Fisher Cemetery," a beautiful stone standing reared to her memory.

Mr. James Ransom is a member of the Baptist church, as was also his wife, in which he is serving as trustee, and his efforts in behalf of the organization have proven far-reaching and beneficial, making him one of its valued members. He belongs to the Grange and in early life gave his

political allegiance to the Whig party, since which time he has been a Republican. For a number of years he has been a member of the Board of Reviews. From pioneer times the Ransom brothers have been representative citizens of this part of the state, interested in all that pertains to public progress.

LOUIS SLOMAN.

Louis Sloman, a clothing merchant of Coldwater and the oldest representative of this line of business in the city, is strictly a self-made man, whose life history might well serve as a source of encouragement and inspiration to others, for it indicates the force and value of industry, integrity and consecutive endeavor in the active affairs of life. He was born in the city of London, England, May 6, 1848, and was only three years of age when brought to the United States by his parents, so that his interests have ever been thoroughly American, and there is no native-born son of the land who is more loyal to the welfare of the country. His parents, Mark and Sarah Sloman, located first in Rochester, New York, where the father became a clothing merchant, and it was in his store that the son gained his first experience in the department of activity in which he has been engaged throughout all his business career. His school privileges were somewhat limited, for when only eleven years of age he was thrown upon his own resources and started out to make his way in the world unaided. Nevertheless, he has been a close reader and observer and, possessing an observing eye and retentive memory, he has become a well informed man on general subjects. When it became necessary that he provide for his own support he went to the city of Buffalo, New York, and was very successful in securing employment in a clothing establishment in which he remained for two years. He afterward came to the middle west, and for two years had the management of a clothing establishment in Alton, Illinois. Notwithstanding the fact that he was but a youth he displayed business ability equal to that of many a man of riper years. In all his business relations he is regarded as a man of keen discernment, sagacious and farsighted, energetic and reliable. He has ever dealt fairly and justly with all and has thus gained the confidence of his customers and his fellowmen. On leaving Alton he went to St. Louis, Missouri, where for two years he was a clothing clerk, and in 1866 he came to Coldwater, where he opened a clothing store for himself. The capital necessary for this enterprise had been secured through his industry and frugality. He has continued in the business in this city, covering a period of nearly forty years, and he has all the while enjoyed a good trade. The store is stocked with a large line of clothing and men's furnishing goods and has ever been well patronized. Mr. Sloman has also been in former years and is now prominently connected with other business interests of the city, having been identified with the Coldwater Road Cart Company, which was once a flourishing concern, but has now ceased to exist. He was also one of the organizers of the National Burial Device Company, with which he is now connected, and he is also a director in the Coldwater National Bank.

In 1876, in the city where he yet makes his home, Mr. Sloman was united in marriage to Miss Rena Wilson, who died in 1887, leaving two children, Herbert L. and Rae. In 1889 Mr. Sloman was again married, his second union being with Miss Minnie I. Sheldon, and they have become the parents of four children, Morley S., Arthur L., Esther and Margaret.

Politically, Mr. Sloman is a Republican, but has never sought the honors nor emoluments of office, preferring to devote his entire time and attention to his business, and through close application and straightforward dealing he has won very desirable and well merited success. He is a member of the Bon Ami Club, and he holds a high place in the esteem of his fellow-citizens.

STARR W. GRUNER.

Starr W. Gruner is a representative of one of the prominent, highly respected and valued families of Branch county and was born in Coldwater township, August 30, 1878. Here he has spent his entire life, with the exception of a brief period passed in Germany, the time spent in school in Coldwater and the period of his service in the Spanish-American war. His father, Wenzel Gruner, was a native of Reichenberg, Bohemia, where he was born September 28, 1831. He came to America in 1848, when seventeen years of age, and joined his brother Anton Gruner, who had preceded him one year. He took up his abode near Rochester, New York, where he spent five years, and then became a resident of Coldwater township, Branch county, Michigan, where he passed his remaining days. After his arrival here his parents, Franz and Katrina (Bergmann) Gruner, also came to America and made their way to Branch county, where the grandfather died in the year 1856, while his wife survived until 1861. In their family were six children, but only one is now living, Karl, who resides in Germany. Wenzel Gruner was married on the 25th of August, 1858, to Miss Emily Randall, and they became the parents of seven children, all of whom reached adult age, although Mrs. Mina Lewis died in the year 1896. The others are: Mrs. Mary Mitchell, who resides in Coldwater; Mrs. Edna Vesey, who is living in Logansport, Indiana; Ward C., who resides in Batavia; Benjamin S., whose home is in Winfield, Alabama; Bartlett R., who is living at Mount Pleasant, Michigan; and Starr W., whose name introduces this review. The father died in 1885 and the mother has since married William Paradine and now resides in the city of Coldwater.

Upon the home farm Starr W. Gruner was reared, his time being passed in the usual manner of farm lads of that period. He attended the schools of Coldwater during the sessions between 1891 and 1896 and received a diploma upon his completion of the high school course. He afterward spent two years, 1896 and 1897, in Germany, visiting relatives there, and at the outbreak of the Spanish-American war, in 1898, he enlisted at Coldwater as a member of the Thirty-third Michigan Infantry, with which he continued until the close of hostilities. He participated in the battle of Aquadores, Cuba, July 1, 1898, Gen. Henry M. Duffield being their immediate commander, and he received his honorable discharge at Owosso, Mich-

igan. He then returned home and began farming upon the old family homestead, where he still resides. His present farm comprises eighty acres of fertile land improved with fine buildings. This place was cleared by his father, and Mr. Gruner, of this review, has further continued the work of development and improvement until the entire place is now under a high state of cultivation.

On the 1st of June, 1899, Mr. Gruner was married to Miss Lena L. Teachout, who was born in Ovid township, Branch county, July 2, 1878, a daughter of Stephen and Caroline (Thompson) Teachout, the former a native of the state of New York and the latter of Ohio. Both her paternal and maternal grandparents were pioneer residents of Ovid township, and the Thompsons came originally from Scotland. Mr. and Mrs. Teachout were the parents of three children, of whom one son died in infancy, while Mrs. Bertha DeClute resides in San Francisco, and Mrs. Gruner completes the family. Her parents are now residents of Coldwater City.

LORENZO ZIMMERMAN.

Lorenzo Zimmerman, who, having retired from farming and building operations, is now merely superintending his investments, being one of the stockholders and directors in the Farmers' National Bank of Union City and the owner of good land in this county, was born in Erie county, New York, April 9, 1840, and comes of both German and Irish ancestry. His father, Levi Zimmerman, was a native of Montgomery county, New York, and obtained his education in the public schools there. He was married in that county to Miss Elizabeth Gray and they began their domestic life in the same locality. It was Mr. Zimmerman who came of German ancestry, while his wife had some Irish blood in her veins. He died at the age of seventy years and Mrs. Zimmerman at the age of sixty-eight years. They were the parents of twelve children, of whom three died in youth, but the others reached adult age.

Lorenzo Zimmerman, the fifth child and second son, was reared and educated in his native county, attending the common schools and afterward the Williamsville Academy. He learned the carpenter's trade in his youth and at the age of twenty years left home, since which time he has been dependent entirely upon his own resources for all the success he has achieved. He came first to Michigan, but afterward went to Arkansas and to Ohio and in the latter state, in company with four others, was engaged in prospecting for oil and developed an oil well near Marietta, Ohio. When the Civil war broke out his patriotic spirit was aroused by the attempt of the south to overthrow the Union, and in 1861 he enlisted as a member of Company L, First Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, with which he served for about fifteen months. He was then honorably discharged on account of disability and returned to Erie county, New York, where he worked at the carpenter's trade until 1865, when he again made his way westward to Michigan. In that year he purchased a farm in Kalamazoo county, hiring men to cultivate and improve his land, while he continued to work at his trade, both at contracting and jobbing. He remained in Kalamazoo county

until 1883, when he came to Sherwood and for a number of years thereafter was quite extensively engaged in the building of mills, receiving contracts at different times in Kentucky, Arkansas, Michigan and Wisconsin. He is now largely retired from active business life, but is one of the directors of the Farmers' National Bank of Union City.

In 1864 Mr. Zimmerman was married to Miss Sarah Zimmerman, a native of Steuben county, New York, and a daughter of Richard Zimmerman. They have become the parents of two daughters and a son: Anna L., the wife of J. B. Peck, a farmer of Sherwood township; Lee, who is living in Athens, Michigan; and Mary E., the wife of J. H. Grill, also of Athens.

Mr. Zimmerman is independent in political matters, voting sometimes with the Republican party and again in favor of the Democratic party. He belongs to Sherwood Lodge No. 421, A. F. & A. M., and to Kilbourn Post No. 361, G. A. R., of which he is now quartermaster. Both he and his wife are members of the Eastern Star and they have many friends in the locality where they have long resided. To every enterprise calculated to advance the prosperity of Sherwood he is a generous contributor, and he is likewise a popular citizen, possessing those traits of character which win and retain friendship.

ELISHA J. BROWN.

Descended from one of the old and prominent families of Connecticut, where its members lived for several generations, some of them in later years coming into the then new middle west and making for themselves homes here, Mr. Elisha J. Brown, the subject of this review, can point with just pride to the accomplishments of his ancestors and to the record of his own life. His branch of the Brown family is descended from three brothers of this name who came from England early in the eighteenth century and settled at Norwich, Connecticut, which was the headquarters for many years. The Browns were patriotic people and several of them were participants in the Revolutionary war. Our subject's great-grandfather was a Captain Brown in this conflict, and the former still has in his possession a sabre carried by the latter at the battle of Bunker Hill, and also an old-fashioned watch carried by another Captain Brown, also an ancestor, through that war. These rare family relics have been handed down from father to eldest son ever since and are considered among the most valuable and highly prized family relics in this portion of Michigan.

Our subject's grandfather was Dyer Brown and his father was Charles D. Brown, both being natives of Connecticut, where the latter was born in Meriden, March 8, 1815. Dyer Brown, his wife and his six children came to Michigan in the early thirties and first located in the township of Ovid, where they purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land. This land was in a virgin state, entirely uncleared, and in that early day there was no road running south toward it from Coldwater, the settlers being compelled to follow Indian trails. The Pottowatomie tribe was very numerous in this vicinity at that date, and in fact for some years after the arrival of the

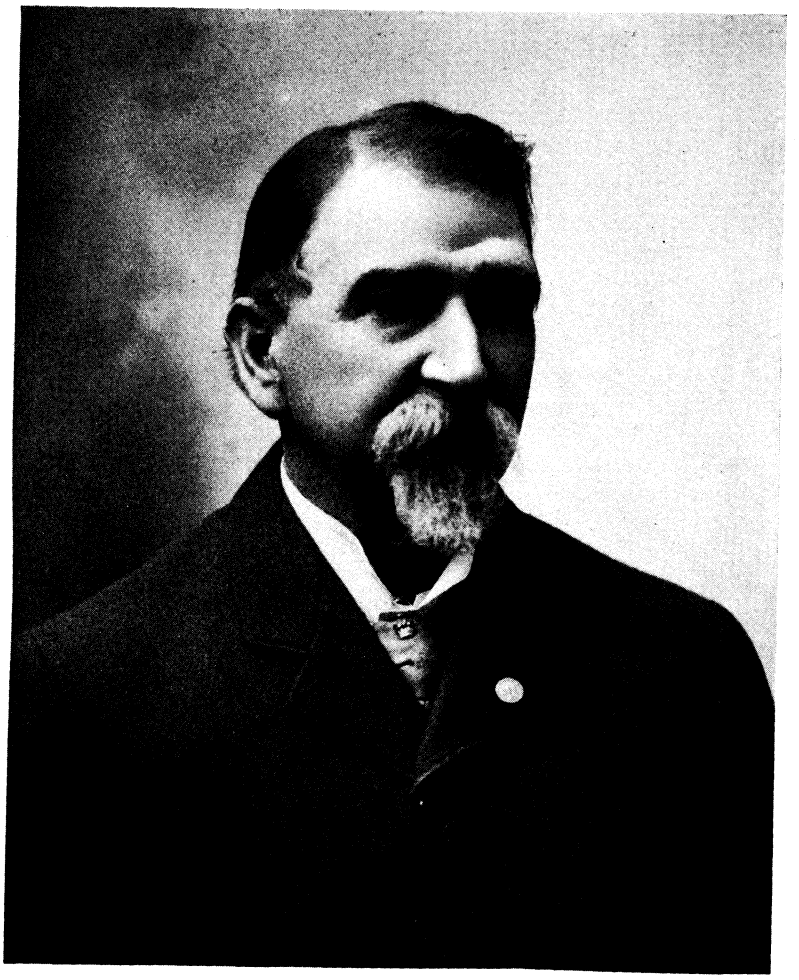
Brown family. This one hundred and sixty acres was cleared by Dyer Brown and his sons, and in addition they controlled the sale of one thousand five hundred acres additional, which was disposed of to other early settlers. Our subject's father, Charles D. Brown, was a partner with his father in all his undertakings here, until the death of the latter, October 8, 1841. Of the family of twelve children, only one is still alive, this being Mrs. Caroline Goodell, who lives in Oakland county, Michigan, at the advanced age of eight-eight years.

Charles D. Brown was married September 1, 1839, to Hannah Hoyt, who was born in Cherry Valley, Chautauqua county, New York, September 22, 1822. The Hoyts were originally from Germany, Hannah Hoyt's grandfather coming to America late in the eighteenth century. Charles D. Brown and his wife had seven children, as follows: Caroline Davis died in Eaton county, Michigan, in 1899; Elisha J. is the subject of this review; Anna Roberts lives in Eaton county; William H. lives in Flint, Michigan; Harriet Mott lives in Ovid, this county; Mary C. Brehm lives in Kinderhook; Laney M., the youngest, died in infancy. Charles D. Brown was renowned throughout Branch county in an early day as a mighty hunter and trapper, as well as an excellent citizen and a successful farmer. It is reliably stated that he killed not less than one thousand deer in this county alone, and another interesting family relic now in possession of the family is the much-used hunting knife with which he used to skin the deer he killed. Our subject, Elisha J., lived with his parents all during their lives, the family owning all property in common and there being no division of property until after the death of the parents. In the home of Mr. Brown now hangs a photograph of four generations of the Brown family, all of whom lived on the same farm at the same time, and owning their property in common, a most unusual thing in this day.

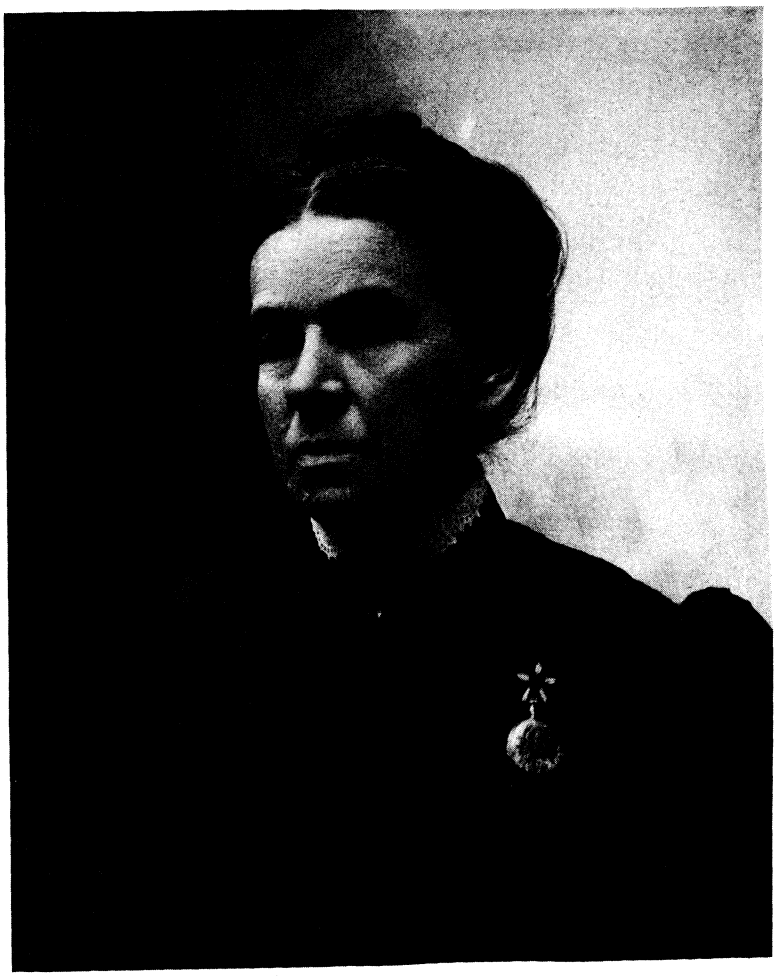
Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Brown led long and useful lives, the former dying September 2, 1898, and the latter April 17, 1896.

At the outbreak of the Civil war Elisha J. Brown responded to the call of his country and engaged in this great conflict, his enlistment occurring August 7, 1862, in Company H, Nineteenth Michigan Infantry, serving until the close of the war and being discharged June 10, 1865. He was in every engagement of his regiment, excepting a few minor skirmishes when he was disabled from a wound. It is a remarkable fact concerning Mr. Brown's service that during the three years he spent but fifteen dollars of his soldier's pay, sending home every other cent of it to his father.

Soon after the close of the war, September 5, 1865, Mr. Brown was married, his bride being Miss Annie Cheney, a native of Northamptonshire, England, where she was born December 14, 1844. She was the daughter of Eli Cheney and Jane Wallace, both natives of the same place and both born in 1818, the father March 8th and the mother June 21st. They were married at Naseby, England, and came to the United States in 1845, locating first at Avon, Loraine county, Ohio, where they lived two years, then removing to Cayuga county, Ohio, which was their home five years and then to Branch county, Michigan, where they settled in Ovid township. Here



Geo. W. Blackwell



Miranda L. Blackwell

Mr. Cheney secured one hundred and sixty acres of land and improved it, and where he passed the remainder of his life, his death occurring here November 12, 1890. Mrs. Cheney is still living at an advanced age, and makes her home with Mr. and Mrs. Brown. The Cheney family consisted of four children: Alfred lives in Kinderhook; John died in 1845; Annie Brown is the wife of our subject; Sarah Lobdell, died in Indiana.

In the sixties the Browns removed from Ovid to Kinderhook township, where they purchased a fine farm on section three. This was their home for thirty-five years and they made of it a comfortable and attractive place. Here nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Elisha J. Brown, only four of whom are living: Ethel J., Harlie E. and Charles D., twins, and a baby who died in infancy, while Freddie died at the age of fourteen years. The living children are Jesse C., Herman E., Nora and Ruth. Jesse C. married Allie Olmstead and their home is in this township; they have two sons, Carl H. and Harold H. Herman married Edith Harkness and their home is in New Castle, Pennsylvania, where he is a chemist in the laboratory of a large cement factory; they have five children, Douglas, Dorothy, Elizabeth, Harriet and Eric. Ruth is the wife of Wesley Garn; they live in Kinderhook and have one daughter, Bernice. Nora, the other daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Brown, lives at home with her parents.

Elisha J. Brown has, with the exception of the period of his enlistment in the Civil war, always been a resident of Branch county and here he has long been known as a man of property and influence. His first presidential vote was cast at Atlanta, Georgia, during the Civil war, for Abraham Lincoln, and he has ever since been a loyal Republican, taking a deep interest in the progress of his party. Although always active politically, he has refused office on many occasions, but his interest in educational affairs has led to his selection as school director on many occasions. He has repeatedly been a delegate to county, senatorial, congressional and state Republican conventions and he thus has a wide political acquaintance throughout the state.

He has been highly successful as a farmer, although now retired from active duty in this line, he having disposed of his farm four years ago and removed to Kinderhook Center, where the family have a modern and comfortable home. Mr. and Mrs. Brown have been members of the Baptist church nearly all their lives and their children also belong to this society. Mr. Brown is also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, while Mrs. Brown is a member of the Kinderhook W. C. T. U., as well as of numerous auxiliary church societies.

GEORGE W. BLACKWELL.

Among the retired citizens of Union City is George W. Blackwell, whose birth occurred in Albion, Orleans county, New York, on the 30th of March, 1843, his parents being Titus and Betsy (Stevens) Blackwell. The father was a native of Trenton, New Jersey, while the mother's birth occurred in Cayuga county, New York. He died in his eight-second year,

while she passed away at the age of seventy-nine years. They had a family of six children, of whom four reached adult age.

George W. Blackwell, the youngest of the family, spent his youth in the place of his nativity and was educated in the common schools. He then began learning the mason's trade with his father and followed that pursuit until after the inauguration of the Civil war. He watched with interest, however, the progress of events in the South and in July, 1861, with a fervid patriotism he responded to the call for aid, enlisting as a member of Company K, Twenty-seventh New York Infantry. He served his full term of two years with valor and loyalty and then returned to his home. In the fall of 1864, however, he re-enlisted, joining the Fourth New York Heavy Artillery, with which he remained until October, 1865, when the war having ended he received an honorable discharge October 1, 1865. He responded to the first call for aid and was present at the surrender of General Lee to General Grant at Appomattox, April 9, 1865. He was in the army altogether for three and a half years and he never faltered in the performance of any duty, thus his efforts contributed to the sum total of the movements which resulted in the preservation of the Union. When mustered out he held the rank of commissary sergeant of his company. He took part in the first battle of Bull Run and was under General McClellan in the army of the Potomac. He was in the hospital during a part of his first term, but during the greater part of the time was on active duty.

On March 3, 1866, Mr. Blackwell was united in marriage to Miss Mianda L. Case, a daughter of Reuben and Emily (Webster) Case, both of whom were born near Rochester, New York. The father died when forty-three years of age, and the mother when sixty years old. They were the parents of seven children, six of whom reached adult age, and one who was killed in the army. Mrs. Blackwell is their eldest daughter and second child, and was born in Orleans county, New York, December 8, 1844. She spent her girlhood days there and is indebted to the public school system of that locality for the educational privileges she enjoyed.

In the year following his marriage Mr. Blackwell came to Branch county, locating in the midst of the forest in Sherwood township, where he secured a tract of land and improved a farm, adding to it good buildings, cultivating the fields and retaining his residence there for seventeen years. He then traded that property for land two miles from Coldwater, in Coldwater township, and upon this second farm made his home for eight years. He then sold out and bought land in Batavia township, where he also lived for eight years, after which he came to Union City, retiring from active business life. All of the time in which he carried on general agricultural pursuits he also worked at the mason's trade and he plastered about fifty houses in Coldwater, in addition to considerable operation as a plasterer in the county. He worked at different times at Batavia, Sherwood and Union City, and in fact has been employed at the mason's trade in all of the towns of the county. He yet owns a valuable farm of one hundred acres of well improved land and this brings him a good rental.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Blackwell were born a son and a daughter:

George W., who married Fannie Burrett and resides in Batavia township; and Nettie, the wife of Asa Moore, a farmer of Union township. They have been residents of the county for thirty-eight years and are people of genuine worth, enjoying in large measure the good will and trust of those with whom they have been associated. Mr. Blackwell has been a life-long Republican and is active in the local work of the party, while his opinions carry weight in his township. He was drain commissioner while in Sherwood and also school director.

He is a prominent member of Corbin post No. 88, G. A. R., has been its commander and has taken a very active part in its work. In the Masonic fraternity he has attained the Knight Templar degree and the York Rite, in the commandery at Coldwater, and he belongs to the lodge, chapter and council in Union City. He is also a member of the Order of Eastern Star, to which his wife belongs, and she is likewise connected with the Woman's Relief Corps and the Department of Honor, while Mr. Blackwell holds membership with the Ancient Order of United Workmen at Union City. He stands today in his mature years a strong man, strong in the consciousness of a well spent life, strong in his courage and good name and a worthy example for young men to pattern after as showing what intelligence and probity may accomplish in the way of success in life.

GEORGE C. WATTLES.

George C. Wattles, living on section nine, Matteson township, is a native of the Empire state, his birth having occurred in Franklin, Delaware county, New York, on the 15th of February, 1851. His father, Ansel F. Wattles, was a native of New York and removed from the east to Loraine county, Ohio, about 1853, locating near North Amherst. He came to St. Joseph county about 1862, settling in Colon, and was there engaged in the foundry business in connection with D. C. Richards. In 1865, however, he removed to the farm in Matteson township, Branch county, and gave his attention to general agricultural pursuits up to the time of his death, which occurred in his seventy-fifth year. He was a life-long Republican, a prominent Mason and a member of the Baptist church. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Susan Remington, was a native of New York and died in 1853. In their family were five children, two daughters and three sons.

George C. Wattles, the youngest, was about eight years of age when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Michigan and he remained with his father until thirteen years of age, when he returned to Ohio, spending the succeeding two years in school in company with his brother, M. E. Wattles. He then again came to Michigan and lived with his father for a short time, after which he once more went to Ohio. On again coming to this state he located at Manistee, working in the government survey service in surveying the peninsular lands. He also spent about two years in the lumber woods and at milling, after which he went to Ottawa county, Michigan, where he remained for seven years. There he was engaged in the lumber business, in threshing and in railroading.

It was about this time, in 1870, that Mr. Wattles was united in mar-

riage to Miss Mary J. Taylor, a daughter of Amos Taylor, of Coopersville, Ottawa county, Michigan, in which place she was born and reared. In 1874 Mr. Wattles removed to Sandusky, Ohio, where he continued in the railroad employ at station work, having charge of the freight house for the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railroad Company for about three years. He likewise spent one year with the Sandusky Tool Company and became emigration agent for the Kansas Pacific Railroad Company, now the Union Pacific. He was also with the tool company at the same time, but afterward returned to the employ of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railroad Company as traveling passenger agent, being with this corporation for about nine years, during which time he lived in Toledo for about three years, building a home while there. In 1888 he went to Kansas and was agent for the Rock Island Railroad at Harrington from October, 1887, until May, 1888, after which he returned to Toledo. Later in the same year, however, he came to Branch county and purchased a quarter section of land on section nine, Matteson township, in what was called the old Rumsey marsh and in October, 1888, removed from Toledo to this farm whereon he has since resided. He is now the owner of two hundred and forty acres of land which he has brought to a high state of cultivation, adding to it all modern equipments and improvements. There are good buildings upon the place, the fields are well tilled and in his work he is meeting with merited success. His farm is largely devoted to the cultivation of peppermint and the manufacture of oil and he has one of the best distilleries for this purpose in the county. He has excellent machinery and all the modern equipments needed for the conduct of such an enterprise and his product for the year 1905 was fourteen hundred pounds of oil, while other years he has produced as high as two thousand pounds of peppermint oil. He also conducts general farming, has a good dairy and is quite extensively engaged in the raising of stock, including hogs, cattle and horses. In all of his business he is practical and his methods are straightforward and reliable, winning for him the confidence and trust of those who come into business relations with him.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Wattles have been born four children: Merritt R., who married Katie Wilck and resides in Madison township; George A., who married Barbara Stemler and resides in Colon, Michigan; Ford A., who wedded Lena Cleveland and is living in Matteson township; and Alice C., who possesses considerable musical talent and is well known in the community as a pianist. Mr. Wattles is well known in the county and was one of the organizers of the American Society of Equity. In his business career he has made steady advancement and has ever been interested in the improvements which are matters of local pride, giving his aid and co-operation to many movements for the general good.

HON. FRANK D. NEWBERRY.

Hon. Frank D. Newberry, of Coldwater, prominent in legal and military circles in Michigan, is descended from English ancestry, the family home in years remote having been at Devonshire, England. The founder of

the family in America came to the new world on the good ship Mary and John and settled in Dorchester, Massachusetts, in 1630. The branch of the family to which Captain Newberry of this review belongs, sent its representatives gradually westward. The grandparents tarried for a time near East Windsor, Connecticut, where his father, Romeo Dyer Newberry, was born in 1794. In 1818 he married Sarah Beckwith, of Hartford, Connecticut, and soon afterward removed to Oneida county, New York, where he engaged in farming. In 1836, with his wife and five children, he went to Avon, Oakland county, Michigan, and in 1848 to Rochester, in the same county.

It was while the family were residents of Avon township that Frank D. Newberry was born, on the 23rd of June, 1840. Reared upon his father's farm, he acquired his preparatory education in the Rochester Academy and the Dickinson Institute at Romeo, Michigan, and in September, 1859, he matriculated in Williams College, of Massachusetts, where he continued his studies until after the inauguration of hostilities between the north and the south. He then enlisted in defense of the Union cause, becoming a member of the Fifth New York Volunteer Infantry, known as Duryees Zouaves, May 9, 1861, less than a month after the attack on Fort Sumter. He served his full term of enlistment and was in all the battles of eastern Virginia from Big Bethel to Chancellorsville, doing a soldier's full duty and returning to his home with a creditable military record.

Following his military experience Captain Newberry prepared for the practice of medicine and surgery in the medical department of the University of Michigan, from which he was graduated in March, 1865. He did not, however, engage in practice, but turned his attention to teaching and for some years was known as a capable educator in his native state. For two years he was principal of the schools of Rochester, Michigan, and then accepted the principalship of the Union City schools, of which he had charge for four years, removing to Branch county at the beginning of that period.

In 1874 Captain Newberry was called to public office, being elected county clerk, in which capacity he served for six years, and then retired from office as he had entered it—with the confidence and good will of all. In the meantime he had entered upon the study of law and after careful preparation was admitted to the bar. He has held other offices in the line of his profession, having been city attorney, circuit court commissioner and prosecuting attorney, and these have brought to him wide experience in connection with the courts, while at the same time he has rendered capable and faithful service. He has also been a member of the school board of Coldwater. Still further political honors awaited him for in 1903 he was elected on the Republican ticket to the state legislature, receiving a vote of three thousand one hundred and thirty-nine, against that of nineteen hundred and ninety-seven cast for his opponent.

Captain Newberry has never ceased to feel a deep interest in military affairs, and in 1876 he joined the Michigan National Guard as a private of Company A, Second Infantry. He was captain from 1878 until 1886, in which year he became lieutenant colonel of the regiment, serving in that

capacity for two years, while from 1887 until 1891 he was inspector general. In 1896 he re-entered the state service and in 1898 he enlisted with his company in the Thirty-second Michigan Volunteer Infantry for the war with Spain, being mustered out November 5, 1898. Three days later he was elected prosecuting attorney, but he resigned that office July 27, 1899, to accept a captain's commission in the Thirtieth United States Volunteer Infantry, desiring to render active aid to his country in a military capacity. He served at this time for twenty-one months, sixteen of which were passed in the Philippines, and he was mustered out April 3, 1901, at San Francisco, California.

Returning to his home in Coldwater, Captain Newberry resumed the practice of law and is now an active member of the bar, with a large clientage that connects him with much of the important litigation tried in the courts of this district. His careful preparation of cases is supplemented by a power of argument and a forceful presentation of his points in the court room and he never fails to impress court or jury and seldom fails to gain the verdict desired.

In 1867 Captain Newberry married Fannie Ellsworth Stone, prominent in literary circles of the state and of wide reputation as a writer. Their attractive home is the center of a large circle of friends.

MRS. FANNIE E. NEWBERRY.

Mrs. Fannie Ellsworth Newberry was born in Monroe, Michigan, May 7, 1848, a daughter of Hiram and Sophia (Harmon) Stone. Her father was a native of Onondaga county, New York, and in his boyhood he accompanied his parents on their removal to Monroe, Michigan, where he was reared and educated. Following his preparation for the bar he was admitted to practice and became a leading member of the legal profession in his part of the state. He also gained distinction in public office, serving as county judge and for two terms as a member of the state legislature, although he was only thirty-two years of age at the time of his death. He was a man of superior intellect, and left the impress of his individuality upon the legislative and judicial history of the state. His widow was born in New York, about eighteen miles west of the city of Rochester, is now more than eighty-two years of age and makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. Newberry. Her father was Ezekiel Harmon, a native of Vermont and a physician by profession.

Mrs. Newberry, in her girlhood days, made her home at different times in Monroe, Michigan, Chicago and Boston. She was a student in the Monroe Female Academy and received instruction from her mother and private tutors. She was graduated from the high school at Brookline, Massachusetts, when seventeen years of age, and at the age of nineteen, at South Bend, Indiana, she gave her hand in marriage to Captain F. D. Newberry, whose personal sketch appears above. She is of studious nature and scholarly tastes, has always been a great reader and has traveled quite extensively in this country, thus continually broadening her knowledge. Her first literary production of any note was a story for the Saturday Evening Post, writ-

ten when she was sixteen years of age. She has been a frequent contributor to various papers and periodicals, but her chief literary productions for adults have been "Strange Conditions" and "Impress of a Gentlewoman." She has also written largely for young people, a list of her works including "Transplanted"; "Comrades"; "Brian's Home"; "Sarah, a Princess"; "House of Hollister"; "A Son's Victory"; "Into the Light"; "Bubbles"; "Not for Profit"; "Everyday Honor"; "All Aboard"; "Joyce's Investments"; and "The Wrestler of Philippi," more than a million copies of the last named having been sold. Mrs. Newberry is an honorary member of the Michigan State Press Association and also of many other literary societies.

ARCHIE W. COLE.

Archie W. Cole, a leading stock farmer of this county living on section twenty-five, Batavia township, is the owner of the largest farm in this locality, his place embracing three hundred and thirty-four acres all in one body. While he tills the fields he more largely devotes his energies to buying, feeding and selling stock and has found this a profitable source of income.

Mr. Cole is one of Michigan's native sons, his birth having occurred in Calhoun county on the 25th of September, 1868. His father, Newman E. Cole, was a native of Herkimer county, New York, and was about ten years of age when he came to Michigan with his mother. He was therefore reared in this state and in his youth learned the tinner's trade, which he followed until about twenty years of age. He carried on the hardware business in Battle Creek, Michigan, for four or five years, and then bought a farm in Calhoun county, east of Battle Creek, comprising two hundred and eighty acres. For a long period thereafter he carried on general agricultural pursuits, but in 1892 sold that property and bought the farm whereon Archie W. Cole now resides. The father was a resident of Coldwater at the time of his death, which occurred in his seventy-eighth year. He was a successful man who started out in life as a poor boy but by his industry, economy and earnest labor worked his way steadily upward to a position of affluence. When he first accepted this position his capital consisted of but twenty-five cents and at his death he was the possessor of a very desirable competence. His business principles and methods, too, were honorable and straightforward and his entire life was in harmony with his professions as a member of the Baptist church. He took an active and helpful part in church work and contributed liberally to its support. In politics he was a life-long Republican. His interest in matters of public progress was deep and sincere and was manifest in many tangible ways for the general good. He gave a house and lot to Kalamazoo College, valued at four thousand dollars, making this one of the bequests of his will. He had a very wide and favorable acquaintance in the county and his life record displayed such sterling traits of character that all who knew him honored and respected him. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Jennie Keith, was a native of New York, and a daughter of Ozen Keith, who removed from the Empire

state to Michigan at an early day, Mrs. Cole being at that time ten years of age. She was born in Herkimer county, New York, but was largely reared in Michigan, the family home being first established at West Hudson in Hillsdale county. Mrs. Cole was a devoted wife and mother and she passed away in Coldwater in 1893, when in her seventy-second year. In the family were seven children, three sons and four daughters: Clarence, who died when but ten weeks old; Nellie C., the wife of E. H. Percy, of Glen Blair, California; Fred, who died at the age of six months; Carrie E., the wife of W. B. Moore, of Girard township, Branch county; Emma J., the wife of W. J. Hammond, of Fargo, North Dakota; and Ella M., the wife of L. J. Marshall, of Crookston, Minnesota.

Archie W. Cole is the youngest in the family and was reared in Calhoun county, Michigan, while his education was acquired in the schools of Hillsdale. When he had completed his literary course he returned home and there remained until twenty-one years of age, when he went to California, locating in Eureka, that state. There he was engaged in bookkeeping for a lumber company for one year and subsequently became bookkeeper for a wholesale and retail book and stationery firm, with which he continued for two years. On the expiration of that period he returned home and joined his father in business, being thus associated until the death of his parent. He had disposed of the milk business previous to his father's death, and concentrated his energies upon general farming and stock-raising, making a specialty, however, of the latter. He buys, feeds and sells stock and is an excellent judge of farm animals, so that he is seldom at error in appraising the value of cattle, horses or hogs. His farm of three hundred and thirty-four acres is the largest in Batavia township and is a splendidly improved property. He is one of the directors of the Batavia Creamery Association, and its president in 1906.

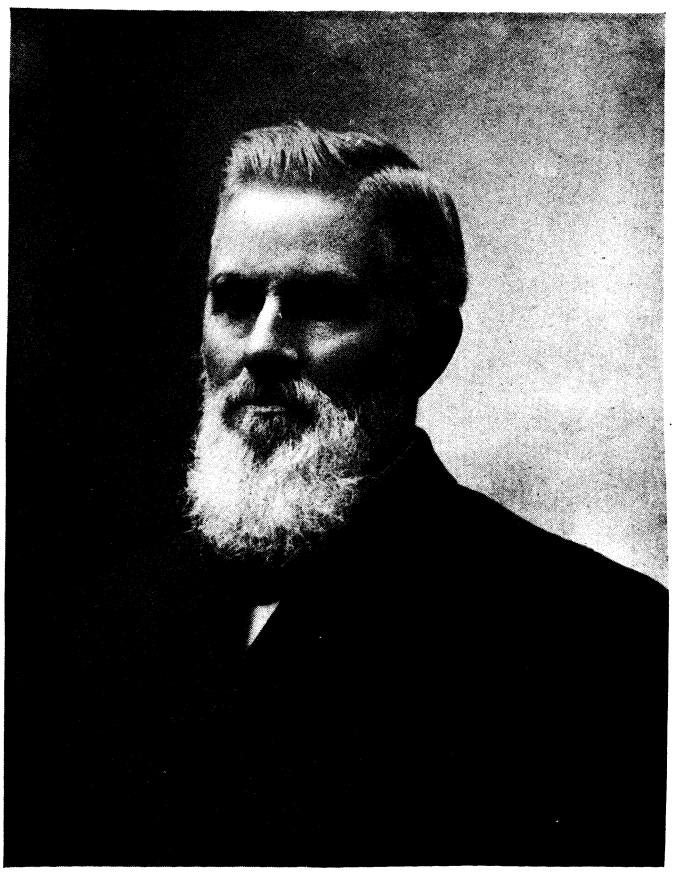
In 1897 Mr. Cole was married to Miss Alice M. Aldrich, a daughter of Edgar and Olive (Bickford) Aldrich, and a native of Algansee township, Branch county. They now have one son, Newman Ernest. Mr. Cole is an unfaltering advocate of Republican principles and he belongs to Coldwater Tent, No. 157, K. O. T. M. His entire life has been passed in Michigan and the spirit of enterprise which has been the dominant factor in the upbuilding of this state has been manifest in his business career, for after all it is the aggregate endeavor of individuals that promotes public progress and improvement and the history of a community, state or nation is best told in the lives of its people. Mr. Cole is indeed a representative agriculturist of Branch county, well deserving of mention in this volume.

EDWARD M. WATKINS.

Many of the respected and worthy citizens of Union City are those who in former years were active in business life and thereby acquired prosperity that now enables them to live retired, enjoying in quiet the fruits of their former toil. Such a one is Edward M. Watkins, who was born in Ontario county, New York, the Empire State, June 21, 1830. His father, Alanson Watkins, was a native of Massachusetts, the Old Bay State, spent his



Chloe L. Watkins



Edward M Watkins

boyhood days in that commonwealth and became a farmer and drover. He also followed merchandising and was connected with other business enterprises, and whatever he undertook he carried forward to successful completion. About 1870 he came to Calhoun county, Michigan, and purchased a farm, upon which he spent his remaining days, dying at the age of sixty-eight years. He had wedded Mary Griswold, a native of Connecticut, who lived to be about forty-two years of age. Their marriage was blessed with eight children. Following the death of his first wife the father afterward married her sister, Permelia Griswold, and there were eight children by that union. As will be noticed, Mr. and Mrs. Watkins descend from the New England ancestry.

Edward M. Watkins is the second child of the first marriage and he was reared in his native place until twenty-two years of age. He came to the west in 1852, settling in Calhoun county, Michigan. He secured employment at the carpenter's trade in Battle Creek, but after a short time removed to Athens township in that county, where he continued building operations. Not long afterward he sought a companion and helpmate for life's journey and was married in Burlington, Michigan, October 26, 1859, to Miss Chloe Rogers, a daughter of Henry and Nancy (Tucker) Rogers, the former a native of Pennsylvania, the Keystone State, and the latter of Maryland. In their family were six children, of whom Mrs. Watkins is the youngest. Her father was a soldier of the war of 1812 and she had one brother who was a soldier of the rebellion, defending the Union cause. Mr. Watkins had two brothers who served in the Civil war. Mrs. Watkins was but seven years old when her father died and is now the only surviving member of the family. She was born and educated in Rushville, New York, and was engaged in teaching school for about nine years. Her eldest sister also engaged in teaching and her brother followed the same profession She came to the west in order to teach with her brother, and here she formed the acquaintance of Mr. Watkins.

At the time of their marriage they located in Burlington, Calhoun county, where he conducted a general store, and there they remained for about six years, coming to Union City in 1870. Here Mr. Watkins, with Mr. Charles W. Crocker, now of Chicago, Illinois, established a store and for many years was actively engaged with commercial interests. In 1897 he turned his attention to the grain business, which he carried on until 1900, and he was engaged in the lumber business at the time he decided to retire to private life. He is a man of resourceful ability, determined and energetic, and his life history most properly illustrates what can be attained by faithful and continued effort in carrying out an honest purpose.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Watkins was blessed with two children: Will D., who is a traveling salesman residing in Kalamazoo, Michigan; and Belle, who is a teacher in Toledo, Ohio. The son was born July 22, 1863, and pursued his education in Union City and at Lansing College. He is a prominent Mason and has held the highest offices in the Traveling Men's Association. For sixteen years he has been a representative on the road for the house of Sprague, Warner & Company. The daughter, Belle, ac-

quired her early education in Union City, afterward studied in Chicago, took post-graduate work in Toledo College, and has been a successful teacher in Toledo for three years. Mr. Watkins proudly cast his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont and has since been a stalwart Republican, assisting in electing each president who has been the standard bearer of the party. He has been active and influential in local political circles and has served on the town board. For twenty-six years he has been a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. His wife is a member of the Eastern Star and of the Degree of Honor, and has taken quite an active interest in the work of those organizations, being now chief of the latter. She has also held offices in the Eastern Star and she is an earnest and devoted worker in behalf of the temperance cause, serving as superintendent of the Loyal Temperance Legion for a number of years. She was district superintendent of the work and during that time organized eighteen lodges. She has likewise held a number of offices in the local, county and district organizations of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and her influence is ever on the side of right, progress, development, reform and truth. Her religious faith is indicated by her membership in the Congregational church. The family home has been maintained in Union City since 1870 and both Mr. and Mrs. Watkins are widely and favorably known. Integrity, activity and energy have been the crowning points of his success and his connection with various business interests and industries has been of decided advantage to this section of Michigan, promoting its material welfare in no uncertain manner.

J. H. VANNUYS.

J. H. VanNuys, residing on section twenty, Matteson township, was born in Ovid township, Seneca county, New York, January 6, 1848, and is of Holland lineage, his paternal grandfather having been born in the "land of the dykes." The father, Simon VanNuys, was a native of New Jersey and there spent his boyhood and youth. After his first marriage he removed to Seneca county, New York, locating in Ovid township, where he followed farming until 1857, when he came to Michigan, settling in Franklin township, Lenawee county. There he devoted his attention to general agricultural pursuits until 1859, when he came to Branch county, settling in Ovid township, where he carried on farming. Later, however, he removed to Bethel township, where he bought a small tract of land of ten acres and upon that place he spent his remaining days, dying when about seventy years of age. He married Miss Sarah Wickoff for his second wife. She was a native of Seneca county, New York, where she was reared and married and she is now eighty-one years of age, making her home at Orland, Indiana. By the father's first marriage there were seven children and by the second there were nine children.

J. H. VanNuys is the eldest of the nine and was nine years of age when he came to Michigan, arriving in Branch county when a youth of eleven years. Upon the home farm in Ovid township he was reared, attending the district schools of the neighborhood and he remained at home

until 1865, when at the age of seventeen years he enlisted for service in the Union army as a private of Company H, Eleventh Michigan Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until the close of the war. He then received an honorable discharge on the 16th of September, 1865, and returned to Ovid township, where he worked for his father until he had attained his majority. He was afterward employed by the month as a farm hand and thus he made his start in the business world.

On the 5th of December, 1874, Mr. VanNuys was married to Miss Lucinda Evans, a daughter of John W. and Elizabeth (Harmon) Evans. She was born in Floyd county, Indiana, in the town of New Albany, August 29, 1846, and when eleven years of age went with her parents to Lawrence, Kansas, where she remained until 1863, when she came with her parents to Michigan, where she has since resided save for a period of two years immediately following her marriage, this time being passed in Indiana. In 1876, however, Mr. and Mrs. VanNuys came to Branch county, settling in the village of Branch, where they remained until 1881, when they located on the farm which is now their home. There were but few improvements on the place but Mr. VanNuys has erected large and substantial barns, also built a fine residence and has carried on the labor of the fields until he has a splendidly improved property. He has also made a specialty of raising Guernsey cattle and now has good stock upon his place. His farm embraces eighty acres of land which is rich and arable.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. VanNuys have been born two children. Arthur J., who was born in Branch, June 12, 1877, was reared and educated in Matteson township, and Della G., born on the farm where Mr. VanNuys now resides, on the 2nd of October, 1882, is the wife of James Neil Cochran, a resident of Coldwater, and they have a little son, J. T. Cochran.

Mr. VanNuys votes with the Democracy and has been elected and served as road commissioner and as a school director. He belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church of Colon and is active in its work. For thirty years he has been a resident of Branch county and in its progress and improvement has been deeply interested, withholding his co-operation from no movement for the public good.

JEFFERSON S. CONOVER.

Jefferson S. Conover, long known as one of the distinguished citizens of Michigan, active in business circles of Coldwater and prominent in the state as a representative of the Masonic fraternity, was born in the village of Cato, Cayuga county, New York, April 20, 1841. He was a son of George M. Conover, who traced his ancestry in the paternal line back to the Dutch Koven Hoven family that settled in New Jersey about 1650. In the maternal line he was descended from a son of Lord Reader of Ireland, who, having been disinherited for marrying a girl in the lower station of life, came to America, where such class condition was unknown. George M. Conover wedded Fannie Carter, whose parents removed from Vermont to New York at an early day, establishing their home near Cato.

Jefferson S. Conover spent his boyhood days in Cayuga and adjoining

counties and was a student in the district schools until about fifteen years of age, after which he spent two terms in Perry Academy, at Perry, New York. A few years later he pursued a brief business course and this terminated his advantages in school, but through experience and observation his knowledge was greatly broadened and he became a man of wide, general information and of much force of character. At the age of nineteen years he began teaching school and in the spring of 1860 he accompanied his parents on their removal to the west, settling with them in South Bend, Indiana. The Civil war was inaugurated early in the following year and Jefferson S. Conover was among those who early responded to the country's call for aid, but his constitution proved unequal to the hardships of a soldier's life and after less than a year of service, three months of which had been passed within the walls of army hospitals, he was discharged and resumed the profession of teaching. In July, 1866, he became a resident of Coldwater, Michigan, where he continued to make his home until his death. Through the succeeding five years he conducted a business college here and then devoted a year or two to journalism. On the expiration of that period he established the business of fine job and color printing, to which he gave his attention for fifteen years, establishing an enterprise which has developed into the Conover Engraving & Printing Company. Upon its organization he was chosen president and continued at its head until his demise, making this one of the large and profitable productive industries of the city.

Mr. Conover was a man of varied activities, resourceful and energetic, and his loyalty to the Masonic tenets and teachings combined with natural ability led to his selection for high honors in connection with the fraternity. He became a Mason in 1880, taking the three initial degrees in Coldwater Lodge, No. 260, and after two and a half years he was elected master, serving until the consolidation of that lodge with Tyre Lodge, No. 18, about 1898. He became a Royal Arch Mason in Temple Chapter, No. 21, November 7, 1881. He received degrees of royal and select master in Mount Moriah Council, No. 6, March 11, 1882; dubbed and created a Knight Templar, March 2, 1882; received the Scottish Rite grades to S. P. R. S.; thirty-second degree in Michigan Sovereign Consistory, June 17, 18, 19, 1883, and was crowned an honorary member of the supreme council, thirty-third degree, at Cleveland, Ohio, September 16, 1890. On the 18th of June, 1892, he joined a caravan that crossed the burning sands of the desert at that time, and became entitled to wear the fez and sport the tiger-claws of the "Shriner." He presided over all the Masonic bodies of his home city, and at one time occupied the three responsible positions of worshipful master, high priest, and eminent commander. In 1892 he was elected grand commander K. T. of Michigan, and served for one year with zeal and earnestness. When William P. Innes was elected grand master, in January, 1892, Mr. Conover was elected to succeed him as grand secretary, and to that responsible position he was annually elected for eleven years. After accepting this office, he withdrew from all active participation in business matters and devoted his undivided attention to his official duties as grand secre-

tary. Upon the death of William P. Innes, in August, 1893, Mr. Conover, who was then grand king in the grand chapter, was appointed grand secretary of that body, and, resigning the office of grand king, took up the work of grand secretary for the Royal Craft in this state, and in January, 1897, he was elected grand recorder of the grand council Royal and Select Masters. The duties of these three offices occupied his whole time and to them he gave the best energies of his nature. Mr. Conover was also an active member of the Order of the Eastern Star, was elected grand patron of Michigan, October 9, 1884, and re-elected in 1885. The following year he was elected most worthy grand patron of the general grand chapter O. E. S. of the United States.

On the 13th of May, 1863, Mr. Conover was married to Mary I. Wharton of South Bend, Indiana, and they resided in that city and in Lafayette and Indianapolis for short periods. In July, 1866, however, they came to Coldwater, Michigan, which was thereafter his place of residence. His devoted wife preceded him to the home beyond only a few months, passing away December 25, 1902. Their children were as follows: Charles A., L. Lenore, Kate B., Mara W. and George W., but the last named died in infancy. Mr. Conover became a member of the Christian church when a young man and for thirty-six years was an active member of the Presbyterian church of Coldwater, his funeral service being held in this house of worship. He departed this life April 15, 1903, and the burial service was conducted by the officers of the grand lodge of his beloved fraternity.

CHARLES A. CONOVER.

Charles A. Conover, son of the late Jefferson S. Conover, was born in Lafayette, Indiana, May 11, 1865. He was reared in Coldwater and attended its public schools, while later he completed a commercial course in the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso. Since that time he has been closely identified with the Conover Engraving & Printing Company of Coldwater, succeeding his father in the ownership of the business in 1900. Alert, enterprising and notably prompt and energetic he has made this a profitable and extensive business interest, having now a large patronage which indicates that the class of work executed in the plant is of superior character.

In politics Mr. Conover is a Republican, active and influential in community affairs and has served as alderman of his city and as a member of the cemetery board. He succeeded his father as grand secretary of the grand chapter, R. A. M., of Michigan and has since held that position. He is also grand recorder of the grand council, R. S. M., of this state and is a worthy successor of an honored sire in his relations of Masonry. He also belongs to the Presbyterian church.

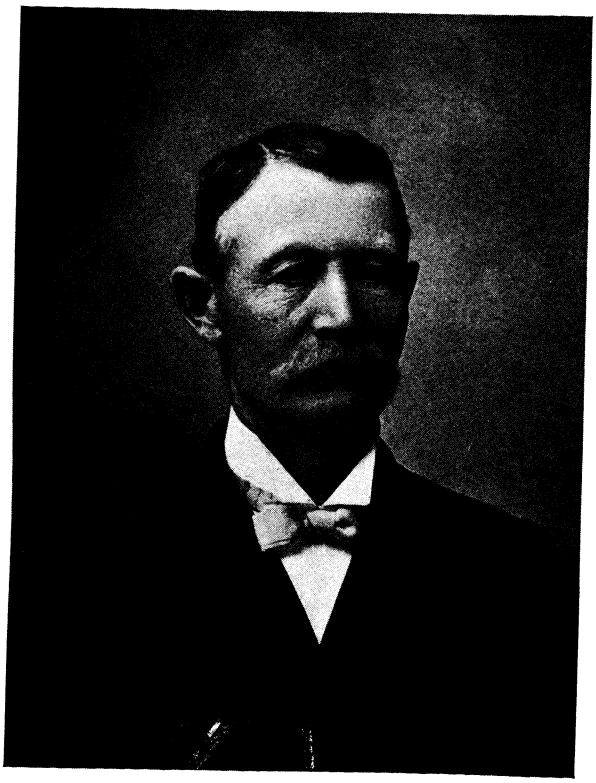
In 1887 Charles Conover was married to Miss Juno Edmonds, and their union has been blessed with three children, Charles Junius, Edmond W. and Fred Eric, the last named being deceased.

LEANDER S. BURNETT.

Leander S. Burnett, deceased, who was known among neighbors and friends as a representative and reliable citizen of Union township and one well worthy of the regard in which he was uniformly held, was born December 11, 1841, on the farm on section fourteen on which he always resided. His parents were Orris and Diantha (Millerman) Burnett, pioneer settlers of Branch county, and one of the first families to settle in Union township. Under the parental roof Leander S. Burnett spent the days of his childhood, his education being acquired in the public schools, while the periods of vacation were devoted to the labors of the fields. He was a lifelong farmer and won a creditable measure of success in the tilling of the soil and in the care of his crops. He followed progressive methods of farming, placing his land under a very high state of cultivation and using the latest improved machinery in the care of his fields. The only time when he put aside farm work was when in 1864 he responded to his country's call for aid, enlisting as a private in a regiment of Michigan Light Artillery. He went to the front and was with the army for about a year, when the war ended and he returned to his home.

On November 29, 1866, Mr. Burnett was united in marriage to Miss Mary Olney, who was born in Girard township, October 2, 1846. Her father, James H. Olney, was a native of New York and on coming to Branch county with his parents when but twelve years of age settled in Girard township. He was one of the pioneers of the locality, the parents casting in their lot with the early residents who had come to reclaim this frontier district from the domain of the red man and utilize it for the purposes of civilization. Here Mr. Olney was reared and educated, and he became familiar with all of the experiences and conditions of pioneer life. He married Catherine M. Vincent, a native of New York, who in early girlhood days came with her parents to Branch county. They were the parents of one son and two daughters, of whom Mrs. Burnett is the second in order of birth. Her father was married the second time, Emily O. Johnson becoming his wife, and by that union there were five children, two sons and three daughters who reached adult age. Mrs. Burnett's own brother, Sylvester L. Olney, resides in Traverse City, Michigan. Asenath is the wife of James E. Embly of Mendon, Michigan. Mrs. Burnett's half brothers and sisters are as follows: Nora and Cora, now deceased; Mattie, the wife of Edward Ostrom, who is living in Homer township, Calhoun county, Michigan; Clarence, who is a farmer of Union township; and Clifford, who is living in Homer township, Calhoun county.

Mrs. Burnett was reared in Girard township, and in 1866 she gave her hand in marriage to Leander S. Burnett. They located on the farm where she is now living, their original home being a log cabin, in which they resided for nine years, when it was replaced by a more commodious and modern residence. One daughter was born unto them, Lulu Bell, the wife of Charles G. Van Schoick, a leading and enterprising farmer of Union township. There is one daughter by this marriage, Beulah Van Schoick.



L. S. Burnett.



Mrs L. S. Burnett.

Mr. Burnett was a lifelong Republican, interested in the work of the party, its growth and success, yet never seeking or desiring office for himself. He and his wife held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church at Union City, was active in its work and contributed generously to its support, while for some time he held the office of trustee. He was a member of the Grange and he likewise held membership in Corbin Post No. 88, G. A. R. He passed away May 7, 1904, and his remains were interred in Riverside cemetery at Union City. He had many friends who had learned to know and esteem him for his sterling worth, and his loss was therefore deeply regretted by those with whom he had come in contact. Mrs. Burnett still resides upon the old homestead farm, having here eighty acres of well improved land. She has spent all of her life in Branch county, the Burnetts and the Olneys both being pioneer families of this portion of the state identified with its entire history.

JOSEPH NELSON SALISBURY.

Joseph Nelson Salisbury, manufacturer and lumber dealer, is closely identified with the business and civic life of Quincy, both by reason of his own energetic and public-spirited activity and also as successor to his father, whose connection with Quincy dates from the early days of its history as a center of population, and who has always been regarded among the strongest characters in the town.

Joseph B. Salisbury, the father, died in October, 1902, being at the time one of Quincy's oldest and most highly esteemed business men. His honorable career was thus sketched by one who had known him from boyhood: "Joseph Blackmar Salisbury first saw the light among the hills on the Hudson river at Athens, New York, June 2, 1831. Left fatherless at an early age, he has given us another example of a boy's self-dependence, fighting the battle of life alone with a success crowned with an honorable manhood. While in his teens he came to Newark, New York, to live with his uncle Horace Blackmar, who was a prominent merchant and business man of that place, whose advice to the boy was, 'the only way to do business is the right way,' emphasizing the word 'right,' and Joe has remembered it. He remained with his uncle until the high tide of emigration to California swept him across the isthmus and Pacific ocean to the gold fields. Joe's story of the three years' struggling in the mines and of his trials in getting there would make an interesting book. In the fall of 1854 he came to Michigan and joined his interests with W. J. Barnes in the lumber business, locating on section twenty-six, three miles southeast of Quincy, where they erected a sawmill. In the fall of 1863 he moved to the village of Quincy and purchased the interest of J. R. Daggett in the planing mill and lumber yard, which he continued until his death. Mr. Salisbury has been in business in Quincy forty-eight years. He made his business a success. He has earned a record of honorable dealing and integrity of character well worthy of emulation. Joe Salisbury had many good traits. Being mortal, he must have had some faults, and he had some good qualities the world will never know how to appreciate. Well, Joe has gone; he can't come back. We

may say what we will, he can't fight back, but that noblest trait in us, charity, constrains us to remember his virtues and forget his faults. A mourning community went with him to the grave, where the beautiful ceremony of a fraternal brotherhood left him with God. The sweet aroma of the bank of flowers, wet with tears, will linger there while friends, with the love of sweet and enduring memories, shall pay tribute to his rest." Joseph B. Salisbury married, May 10, 1851, Margaret Ann Barnes, whose death occurred February 21, 1895. They were parents of five children, namely: Joseph N., Carrie Lillie, Willard Andrews, Rolzamund B. and Flora Adell.

Mr. Joseph N. Salisbury, the only living son of this late Quincy business man, was born in Newark, Wayne county, New York, in 1853, but was reared mainly on a farm in this county, attending school in the country and in Quincy. He early became associated with his father in the lumber yard and sash and planing mill, and at his death became proprietor of the factory and business. Interior wood finishing, sash and general planing work constitute the output of the mill, and his large retail lumber yard is the only enterprise of the kind in Quincy. Like his father, Mr. Salisbury is successful in business affairs, and is one of the prominent men of affairs of his town. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias, the Masons and Maccabees, and, a Republican in politics, has served two terms in the village council and is always ready to promote by personal effort the welfare of his community.

In 1877 Mr. Salisbury married Margaret Ann Rose, who was born in Kingsville, Canada, in 1855. Her father, Benjamin Rose, also a native of Canada and of Irish stock, was a farmer and came to Michigan from Canada in 1870, locating at Jonesville, whence, after a successful career in farming, he retired and moved to Quincy in 1886, and died the following year in his sixty-fifth year. His wife, Hannah Rose, also a native of Canada, is still living, in her eighty-ninth year, making her home with Mr. and Mrs. Salisbury. She is a Methodist; her husband was a Baptist. Mrs. Salisbury is next to the youngest of the seven of her parents' nine children that reached adult age, the others being as follows: Benjamin, a wholesale merchant in South Bend; Mariam, widow of Upham Waldo, of Chicago; Maria, twin sister of Mariam, and married Melvin Ganyard and is living in Oakland; Silence, widow of Henry O'Reilly, lives in San Francisco, California; Myra is wife of Gabriel Blum, a merchant of Martinez, California. Mrs. Salisbury's mother by a previous marriage has two living children: Chloe, the wife of Frank Post, a mine operator in California, and Phoebe, wife of William Doe, a molder living in Detroit. Mrs. Salisbury is a member of the Presbyterian church. Mr. and Mrs. Salisbury have one child, Rose, who is at home.

GEORGE H. SEYMOUR.

George H. Seymour, cashier of the Farmers and Merchants Bank, and a respected and trustworthy representative of the financial interests of the county, was born in Union City, June 26, 1867, being the second son of Henry and Carolyn (Tutherly) Seymour, whose history is given on another

page of this work. At the usual age he entered the public schools and passed through successive grades until he became a high school student in Union City, graduating in the class of 1884. When he had put aside his text-books he entered upon his business career as a teller in the Union City National Bank, which position he filled with ability and credit from August, 1884, until March, 1888. In the latter year he came to Sherwood, accepting the cashiership in the Farmers and Merchants Bank, which has been his business association from that date to the present time. The success of the bank is largely attributable to his efforts for he is a popular official, obliging to its patrons and at the same time carefully conducting the affairs of the institution, which is capitalized for ten thousand dollars, with Henry Seymour as the president. George H. Seymour is also engaged in the insurance business, representing the New York Underwriters Agency, the Hanover, and the North British Companies.

In November, 1888, Mr. Seymour was united in marriage to Miss Maude L. Hubbard, a daughter of Russell D. and Julietta (Cooley) Hubbard. They now have one son, Leon H.

Mr. Seymour is a stalwart and unswerving Republican, having taken an active interest in the party and exerted his influence in its behalf since attaining his majority. He is now filling the position of village treasurer and was formerly president of the village. He has been a member of the school board for twelve years and was township treasurer for four years and his support of progressive community interests has been of marked value in this part of the county. He belongs to Sherwood lodge, No. 421, A. F. & A. M., and is also a member of the Unitarian church in Sherwood. His entire life has been passed in Branch county and his life history is in contradistinction to the old adage "That a man is never without honor save in his own country, and that among his own kin," for in this locality where he has always lived Mr. Seymour has so directed his efforts as to win success and an honored name simultaneously.

WILLIAM N. CONOVER.

William N. Conover, a retired farmer now living in Coldwater, was born in the town of Sparta, Livingston county, New York, August 29, 1837, his parents being Garrett and Jane (Hall) Conover, both of whom were natives of Cayuga county, New York. His grandfather, John Conover, was also a native of the Empire state and was of Holland descent, and from the same country the maternal ancestry is traced. Mrs. Conover died when her son William was only three years old, leaving two children, but the daughter departed this life several years ago. For his second wife the father married Sarah Howell and they became the parents of four children, after which the mother's death occurred. In 1847 Mr. Conover had removed to Huron county, Ohio, and it was there that he was married for the third time, Miss Mary Wright becoming his wife. There were two children by that union. Mr. Conover always devoted his time and energies to agricultural pursuits and his death occurred in Fairfield, Huron county, Ohio.

William N. Conover was reared on the old homestead farm and left

the parental roof when twenty-two years of age. He was married in 1861 to Miss Sevilla Trauger, who was born in Richland county, Ohio, and was of German lineage. The young couple began their domestic life upon a farm in Huron county, Ohio, and Mr. Conover continued the cultivation of his land until in 1862, when he could no longer content himself to remain at the plow while the Union was in danger. He therefore enlisted on the 9th of August as a member of Company D, One Hundred and First Ohio Infantry, joining the regiment as a private. In February, 1863, being unable to endure the hardships of war, he was honorably discharged on account of disability at Bowling Green, Kentucky. He now maintains pleasant relations with the soldiers of the war through his membership in Butterworth Post, G. A. R.

Returning to his home in Ohio Mr. Conover remained in that state until 1864, when he came to Branch county, Michigan, and settled in Algansee township. Three years later he sold his property there and removed to Ovid township, where he successfully carried on farming until 1889. He was practical in his work, systematic in his methods, utilized the latest improved machinery to facilitate the work of the fields and altogether was known as an enterprising agriculturist. Success attended his labors and with a well earned competence he retired to Coldwater to enjoy the fruits of his former toil.

Mr. and Mrs. Conover became the parents of one child, Lottie, who was married to Adelbert Leroy, a resident of Kalamazoo, Michigan. She died in 1902, leaving one son, Lavern, who is now sixteen years of age. Mr. Conover has always been an advocate of Republican principles, but has never had any political ambition, content to devote his attention to his business affairs, and now after many years of close connection with agricultural interests he is enabled to live retired, enjoying the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

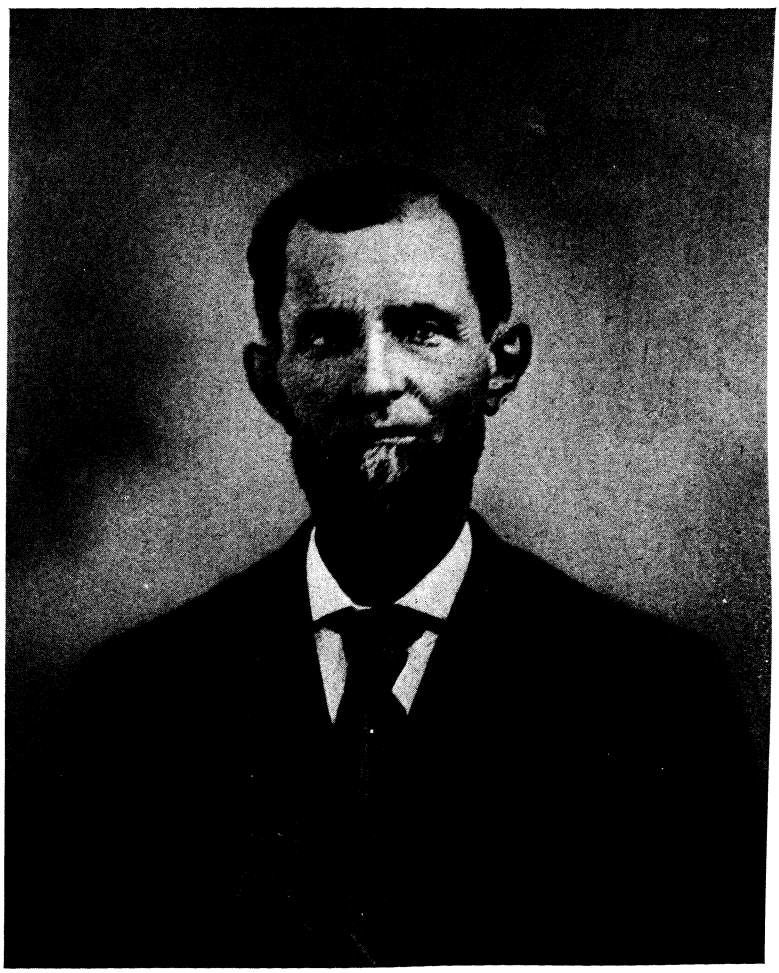
JOHN A. GREENAMYER.

John A. Greenamyer, a representative farmer of Ovid township living on section twelve, was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, on the 28th of January, 1858. His father, David Greenamyer, was also a native of that county, born in 1820 and was reared in Ohio, where he followed the occupation of farming. His entire life was devoted to general agricultural pursuits and thus he provided for his family. He was married in Ohio to Miss Margaret Snook, a native of that state, born in 1827. She was reared and educated in Salem, Ohio, and came of a family of Pennsylvania Dutch ancestry. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Greenamyer were born ten children, six sons and four daughters, of whom two are now deceased.

John A. Greenamyer, the fifth child and third son in his father's family, was about seven years of age when his parents left Ohio and removed to Branch county, Michigan, settling upon the farm which is now the home of our subject. It comprised one hundred and sixty acres of land and the father secured eighty acres of this. He erected all of the buildings upon the place and added many modern improvements, converting the property



Dolia E. Talbott



Leroy Talbott

into a well developed farm which yielded him a good income as a reward for the cares and labors he bestowed upon the fields. In politics he was a life-long Republican, interested in the growth and success of his party, and he was widely and favorably known in this section of the state. He carried on the active work of the farm until 1901, when he retired from business life and took up his abode in Coldwater.

John A. Greenamyer was reared upon the old farm homestead and pursued his education in the district schools of Ovid township, therein mastering the branches of learning usually taught in such institutions. He always remained at home during the period of his boyhood and youth and assisted his father in the farm work until he attained his majority. He then left home and started out upon an active business career as a farm hand. He worked by the month for five years and then returned to the old homestead, which he purchased from his father. He now has eighty acres of land all under cultivation and neatness and system pervade the place and indicate the owner to be an enterprising agriculturist, who thoroughly understands his business and directs his labors so as to meet with success. In all his work he has been encouraged and assisted by his estimable wife, who in her maidenhood bore the name of Belle Strobec. They were married on the 20th of April, 1887. Mrs. Greenamyer was born in Ovid township on the 25th of August, 1864, and is a daughter of Addison and Hannah (Pender) Strobec, early settlers of Branch county. They came from Lenawee county during the epoch of pioneer development here and established their home in Ovid township, where they reared their family. Mrs. Greenamyer spent her girlhood days under the parental roof and acquired her education in the district school near her home. By her marriage she has become the mother of six children, four sons and two daughters, all of whom were born upon the farm where they now reside, namely: Ralph, Starr, Arlene and Rex, twins, Clifford and Marie.

In his political allegiance Mr. Greenamyer is an earnest Republican and has capably filled local offices, acting as township treasurer for two years in Ovid township. He is well known and his co-operation can be counted upon for any measure for the benefit of the community. He belongs to the Order of Mutual Protection at Coldwater.

LEROY B. TALBOTT.

LeRoy B. Talbott, a prominent farmer residing on section fourteen, Union township, was born in Cazenovia township, Madison county, New York, November 8, 1830. His father, Lorenzo D. Talbott, was also a native of the Empire state, and was a son of Samuel Talbott, whose birth occurred either in Nova Scotia or England. The great-grandfather, Edward Talbott, was a native of England and was a military officer, becoming commander of the warship Prince of Wales. He was connected with the nobility of his native land. In the maternal line Mr. Talbott is descended from one of the old families of New York of Holland-Dutch ancestry. His grandfather was John Nichols. His mother bore the maiden name of Catherine M. Nichols and was born in New York, giving her hand in marriage in

Madison county, that state, to Lorenzo D. Talbott. They took up their abode in that county, but their last days were spent in Michigan, both passing away in Union City. The father was eighty-three years at the time of his demise, while his wife passed away at the age of about seventy years. In their family were two sons and a daughter. The brother, E. H. Talbott, was killed in California by being thrown from a horse, while Malissa Ann, the sister, is now the wife of Oved Alvord of Creston, Iowa.

LeRoy B. Talbott, the eldest of the family, was reared in the county of his nativity to the age of fifteen years, and in 1845 came with his parents to the middle west, the family home being first established in Mentor, Ohio. Mr. Talbott remained there until 1866, and was married in that place to Miss Julia Griswold, the daughter of Harry Griswold and Betsy (Ackley) Griswold. Mrs. Talbott died March 16, 1905, her death being greatly deplored by many friends, for she had endeared herself to a large circle of acquaintances with whom she had come in contact. She left one daughter, Myrtie, now the wife of Frank Baker, of Detroit, and they have a daughter, Lila. At the time of Mrs. Talbott's death the following lines were written:

"Miss Julia E. Griswold was born in Mentor, Lake county, Ohio, November 15, 1841, and passed to higher life, March 16, 1905, aged sixty-three years. She was married to L. B. Talbott August 11, 1861. Two children blessed this union. The white messenger came and plucked one from the parent stem in its infancy and bore it away to the great beyond. A husband and daughter, Mrs. Frank Baker, of Detroit, and a sister, Mrs. Cale Lincoln, are left to mourn the loss of wife, mother and sister.

"For some years, Mrs. Talbott has been failing, and for the past few months she has been treated for a complication of diseases; no positive decision could be reached. She spent a few weeks at the Sanitarium at Battle Creek, she returned home, and has been gradually going down ever since. On the evening of the 10th she was stricken with paralysis from which she never rallied. The sleep that forebodes so much took possession, resisting all care and entreaties of loving friends that she might be spared to them.

"Mrs. Talbott was highly esteemed in the neighborhood where she has lived thirty-eight years; endearing herself to those with whom she came in contact and to-day they mourn with those who mourn the loss of she who

Waited in the gloaming,
And at the early morn;
She awaited the angels coming,
She listened for their songs.

"Day and night was the watch kept, lovingly attending to the little that could give comfort to the body as it lay so helpless; each one knowing that they were helpless to stay the hand of the dread archer, who, sooner or later, would snap the bow and send the arrow that would sever the cord that binds to earth.

"Thus she lingered, day by day, growing weaker and weaker, until the two worlds that had been so slowly approaching each other, rested for one

brief moment on the threshold, and the life went out like the snuffing of a candle. The veil was lifted and the spirit left its clay casket and entered her eternal home.

"Home! Yes, home of the soul,
In Heaven's land not built with hands;
Beyond the stars in God's own land;
And written on a golden scroll:
'Home of the Father, home of the soul.'"

In the year 1866 Mr. Talbott came to Branch county, purchasing a farm whereon he now resides. He has made all of the improvements here including the erection of his present modern residence and his large and substantial barns. The place is divided into fields of convenient size by well kept fences and the latest improved machinery is used in facilitating the farm work. The homestead comprises one hundred and fifteen acres of land and is one of the good farms of the county owing to the care and cultivation which Mr. Talbott has bestowed upon it. He has always carried on general agricultural pursuits and his practical knowledge and experience enable him to so conduct his business interests as to derive therefrom a gratifying income. Since age gave to him the right of franchise he has been in sympathy with Republican principles and has voted for the party since it has had a presidential nominee in the field. He is well known in the county, his residence in Union township covering almost forty years and it is known that his aid can be counted upon for the furtherance of every progressive and beneficial movement. His worth is acknowledged by many friends who entertain for him kindly regard.

EDWARD P. WILCOX.

The farming interests of Matteson township find a worthy representative in Edward P. Wilcox, who resides on section eight, where he owns eighty acres of land, while elsewhere he has a tract of twenty-three acres. The Empire state has furnished a large number of valued citizens to Branch county, including Mr. Wilcox, who was born in Onondaga county, New York, December 10, 1840. His father, Thomas Wilcox, was a native of Vermont and in his boyhood days went from the Green Mountain state to New York with his parents. His father was Stutley Wilcox, of English descent. In the Empire state Thomas Wilcox was reared and became a farmer. In 1856 he removed to Michigan, settling in Jackson county, and his last days were spent in Muskegon county, where he passed away in his eighty-sixth year. In early manhood he had wedded Eliza Hall, a native of New York, in which state her death occurred when she was about fifty years of age. In their family were eight children, seven of whom reached manhood and womanhood, while five are now living.

Edward P. Wilcox was the sixth child and third son and was about fifteen years of age when he came to Michigan, the remainder of his minority being passed upon the home farm in Jackson county, where he gained a good practical knowledge of the best methods of tilling the fields and

caring for the crops. On attaining his majority he started out in life on his own account, willing to perform any work that would yield him an honest living and gain him a start in life. He came to Branch county in 1878, locating on a farm in Matteson township which he purchased from Curtis McCarty. There he carried on general agricultural pursuits until 1904. In 1901, however, he located on his present farm on section eight, Matteson township, where he has eighty acres of land that he has placed under a high state of cultivation, while in another tract he has twenty-three acres. His farm work is systematically managed and his untiring activity in business life guided by sound judgment has brought to him a gratifying measure of prosperity.

Mr. Wilcox was married in 1881 to Miss Ella Johnson, a daughter of Samuel and Harriet Johnson and a native of Niagara county, New York. They have two children: Clyde, who is living on the old homestead; and Myrtie, the wife of Earl Taylor, a farmer of Matteson township. Mr. Wilcox has been a life-long farmer and the success that he has achieved is due entirely to his persistency of purpose and indefatigable energy. In politics he is a Democrat and is interested in public affairs, although he has never sought or desired public office. During a residence of twenty-eight years in Branch county he has won the esteem and regard of his fellowmen and the circle of his friends has constantly been extended.

IRA A. MARTIN.

Ira A. Martin, who devotes his time and energies to agricultural pursuits on section three, Batavia township, was born on the old family homestead March 15, 1859. His father, Ira Martin, was a native of Jefferson county, New York, and came to Branch county, Michigan, in 1844. He was born in 1820 and was therefore a young man of twenty-four years when he determined to try his fortune in the west, hoping that better opportunities might be enjoyed and that advancement might be more quickly secured in a district where competition was not so great owing to the less thickly settled condition of the country. He spent one year in the city of Coldwater and then removed to Batavia township, where he purchased a tract of land. He was a cooper by trade, but after buying a farm gave his time and energies to its cultivation, raising the various crops best adapted to the soil and climate. Matters of public interest elicited his attention and to many movements for the general good he gave hearty co-operation. He held some local offices and in politics was a stanch Republican. He wedded Miss Mary Loomis, a native of Ohio and a daughter of Eber Loomis. Her mother was a native of Connecticut. Mrs. Martin was born in 1822 and both parents of our subject have now passed away, the father having died in 1897 and the mother in 1903. They were the parents of six children, all of whom are yet living, but Ira A. and Joseph are the only ones who reside in Branch county.

Ira A. Martin was the fourth son and fifth child in the family. No event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of farm life for him in his youth. He acquired his early education in the district schools of Batavia township and afterward continued his studies in the schools of

Coldwater. When not engaged with his text-books his time was largely given to farm work upon the old family homestead and he remained with his parents until the time of his marriage, when he took up his abode on the farm where he now lives on section three, Batavia township. Here he owns one hundred and thirty acres of well improved land, carries on general farming and has a model country home. In the rear are good barns and outbuildings and these in turn are surrounded by well tilled fields, the entire farm presenting a most attractive appearance because of the air of neatness and thrift which pervades every part of it.

In 1889 Mr. Martin was united in marriage to Miss Della E. Johnson, a daughter of A. P. and Sylva (VanDusen) Johnson. Mrs. Martin was born in Ohio and was eight years of age when she came to Branch county. This union has been blessed with one daughter, Vesta L., now at home. Mr. Martin is a stalwart advocate of Republican principles, has served as township treasurer of Batavia township and is now filling the office of justice of the peace. He is actively and helpfully interested in public affairs, is a member of the Grange and has a wide and favorable acquaintance in the county where his entire life has been passed and where he has so directed his efforts as to gain success in business and at the same time win the trust and friendship of many with whom he has been associated.

REV. DAVID L. HOLBROOK.

Rev. David L. Holbrook, pastor of the Congregational church of Union City, was born in Yates county, New York, June 5, 1848, his parents being Dr. L. H. and Susan (Jones) Holbrook. His paternal grandfather, Luther Holbrook, was a native of Keene, New Hampshire, and was a cabinet maker by occupation. The ancestry of the family can be traced back to an early epoch in the settlement of the new world, John Holbrook having come from England, in 1840, and located in Weymouth, Massachusetts.

Dr. Holbrook was born in Utica, New York, and completed his professional education in Hahnemann Medical College, of Chicago, in which city he practiced for several years. He died when about fifty-seven years of age. His wife was a native of New Jersey, and with her parents located in Yates county, New York, in her early girlhood. Her father, Joseph Jones, was a surveyor and surveyed much of the land in the western part of the Empire state. He was of Welsh lineage. Mrs. Holbrook died when about seveny-seven years of age. In the family were five sons and a daughter, and with the exception of one son all are yet living, namely: Colonel Stanley H. Holbrook, of Park Ridge, Illinois, who is connected with the J. W. Butler Paper Company, of Chicago; Joseph S., who is with the Fuller & Fuller Drug Company, of Chicago; William C., who is a musician with De Baugh's Band; and Anna M., who is a teacher in the kindergarten at Park Ridge, Illinois.

Rev. David L. Holbrook, the eldest of the family, was educated at Amherst, Massachusetts, where he was graduated with the class of 1872. He afterward was connected with the Chicago high school and he completed his preparation for the ministry by graduation from the Chicago

Theological Seminary with the class of 1877. His first pastoral charge was at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, where he remained from 1877 until 1892, when he went to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, as pastor of the Congregational church from 1893 until 1898. In 1900 he came to Union City, where he has since remained, and under his guidance the work of the church has been well organized and great good is accomplished in its various departments. He has in his labors not been denied the full harvest nor the aftermath, and his influence has been of no restricted order.

On the 6th of September, 1876, Rev. Holbrook was united in marriage to Miss Sarah H. Helm, a daughter of the Rev. James I. Helm, D. D., formerly rector of St. Paul's church, at Sing Sing, New York, now deceased. Mrs. Holbrook is a native of New Jersey. The marriage of Rev. and Mrs. Holbrook has been blessed with seven children: James L., who died at the age of two years; David H., who is now in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, where he is teaching in the high school, and who married Gertrude Brewer, by whom he has a son, David; Charles W., who is engaged in teaching in Clinton, Iowa; Frederick S., who died in infancy; Franklin F., who is a graduate of the Union City high school; Eliza S., who has also completed a high school course; and Marjorie, who is a high school student. The Rev. Holbrook is a man of scholarly tastes, continuing his studies and researches along many lines and thus promoting his efficiency in his work by the broadening of his knowledge. He presents his thoughts with clearness and force and his long continuance with the different churches with which he has been connected indicates his standing with his parishioners and the general public.

MRS. C. E. (HOBART) HURD.

Mrs. C. E. (Hobart) Hurd, of Union City, was born in Yatesville, Yates county, New York, January 10, 1821, and became a resident of Michigan in 1841, when she located in Union City. Here she has resided continuously since she was married in 1842 to Dr. W. P. Hurd, who died in 1881. He was a prominent physician for many years in Union City, but gave up the practice of medicine during the war of the rebellion and was later connected with banking interests, being president of the Union City Bank at the time of his death.

JOHN A. STANTON.

John A. Stanton is one of the representative and leading farmers of Sherwood township, living on the old family homestead on section nine. It was upon this farm that he was born May 24, 1869, being the only son and eldest child of Edward D. and Susan (Atwood) Stanton, who are mentioned on another page of this work. His boyhood days were spent in the usual manner of farm lads of the period and he assisted in the further cultivation and improvement of the old home place, upon which his grandfather, John Stanton, had located in 1836, taking up the land from the government. He was one of the pioneer settlers of the county and aided in reclaiming this portion of the state for the uses of the white race, it having been hitherto





W. P. Hunt

the domain of the red man. John A. Stanton has always remained upon the farm and in his youth his time and attention were divided between the work of the school room and the duties of the fields, his education being largely acquired in the schools of Union City.

As a companion and helpmate for life's journey he chose Miss Matie Collins, to whom he was married on the 28th of February, 1891, her parents being Joseph and Sophronia (Pierce) Collins. They were early settlers of Branch county, locating in Sherwood township when few homes had been established within its borders. It was here that Mrs. Stanton was born. Mr. and Mrs. Stanton have become the parents of two daughters and a son: Alice, Eslie and Edward.

Mr. Stanton is the owner of four hundred and seventy acres of valuable land, of which three hundred and twenty acres is the old homestead farm, while ninety-five acres lies in section eleven. He is a most progressive agriculturist and his farm indicates his careful supervision in its neat and attractive appearance. Indeed it is one of the most desirable properties of the county and it returns to him a splendid income annually because of the care and labor he bestows upon the fields. He has followed in his father's political footsteps and has been a life-long Republican. He has a wide acquaintance in Branch county and is best liked where best known, a fact which is indicative of an honorable career.

J. B. BRANCH.

J. B. Branch, who entered upon a clerkship at the age of fourteen years, is today at the head of the extensive department store of J. B. Branch & Company, the largest enterprise of this character in this portion of the state. He has steadily worked his way upward, each step in his career being carefully taken, and as the years have advanced his business capacity and enterprise have been recognized and have found their just reward in the handsome competence which is today his.

Mr. Branch is a native of the Empire state, his birth having occurred in Fort Byron, New York, April 3, 1853. His parents were Elijah C. and Annette N. (Woodward) Branch, both of whom were natives of New Hampshire. They came to the west from New York when their son was a small boy and settled at Coldwater, Michigan, where they spent the greater part of their remaining days, both passing away in Branch county, the mother's death occurring in 1900, while the father survived until 1902. The remaining children of the family are J. B. Branch and one sister.

J. B. Branch was reared and educated in Coldwater, but had no particular advantages in youth to assist him when he started out upon his business career. He was only fourteen years of age when he was thrown upon his own resources and since that time all that he has enjoyed or achieved has been acquired through his own well directed labor, guided by sound business judgment that is the outcome of experience. He first became a clerk in the store of Woodward, Barber & Company and acted in that capacity until 1875, when he became a partner in the firm of Woodward & Branch and established a dry goods store. After two years, however, he sold his

interest to the partner and joined Mr. Barber in forming the present firm of J. B. Branch & Company, successors to Woodward, Barber & Company. The present partners are J. B. Branch and Julius S. Barber, the former, however, being the active manager of the business. They carry a large line of dry goods, carpets, millinery and in fact conduct a general department store which is not surpassed by any enterprise of this character in central Michigan. Their building is three stories and basement and there is also an annex. The building is equipped with an electric elevator and on each floor they have a double room which is divided into departments. The business is conducted along strictly retail lines, and throughout his entire career Mr. Branch has carried on merchandising, standing today as the leading representative of this line of trade in Coldwater.

Mr. Branch was married in this city in 1876 to Miss Emma Moulton, who was born in Coldwater and is a daughter of Storrs H. and Julianna (Hulburt) Moulton, pioneer residents of this city. The father conducted a furniture store here about forty or forty-five years ago. This he at length sold because of impaired health and both he and his wife died several years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Branch have become the parents of two sons and two daughters: Helen M., now the wife of William Coombs of Coldwater; Leroy J., who is also married and is associated with his father in business; Lorene M.; and George M. The first two are twins.

When twenty-one years of age Mr. Branch became a member of the Masonic fraternity and successive degrees have since been conferred upon him until he is now a Knight Templar Mason. He holds membership in the Baptist church and is interested in public progress to the extent of active co-operation in many measures for the general good. His life as a man of affairs is to him only a means to an end for he never allows the duties of his calling to dwarf his finest sensibilities or to thwart his generous ambition. He is genial, courteous and a fast friend to those who enjoy his confidence. In all his business enterprises he is eminently successful and is regarded by all who know him as exceptionally sure and reliable.

ORLANDO G. NOYES.

Among the respected and worthy citizens of Coldwater now living retired is numbered Orlando G. Noyes, whose birth occurred on Chestnut street in Rochester, New York, August 1, 1839. The family is of English lineage, and the grandfather, Samuel P. Noyes, was born and lived in the east. His son, Samuel P. Noyes, Jr., was born in the southeastern part of Vermont in 1803, and during his active business career engaged in the manufacture of shoe pegs and lasts, conducting a factory in Rochester. He wedded Mary Brezee, who was a native of Connecticut and was of French and English lineage. They became the parents of nine children, of whom one son and one daughter died in early life, while the others reached adult age.

Orlando G. Noyes, the eldest of the seven who grew to manhood and womanhood, was reared in Rochester and in Penfield, New York, and pursued his education in the common schools. He afterward assisted his father in business until the latter's death. When only thirteen years of age he

began learning the printer's trade, and to that pursuit largely gave his time and attention until after the outbreak of the Civil war, when in 1861 he enlisted as a musician of the Ninth Michigan Volunteer Infantry, serving for eleven months. He was captured at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, being taken prisoner by Generals Foster and Wheeler. He was paroled, however, about ten miles southeast of McMinnville, Tennessee, and returned to Nashville, whence he made his way to Columbus, Ohio. Following his discharge from the army he returned to Coldwater, Michigan, where he had located in 1846, his parents in that year having established their home here, while the father carried on business as a boot and shoe merchant.

Mr. Noyes worked in the printing office of the *Coldwater Sentinel*, of which Elihu B. Pond was the editor and proprietor. He continued with that paper for two or three years, after which he entered the office of the *Branch County Republican,* remaining in that employ until the time of his enlistment in the Civil war. Following the close of hostilities and his return to Coldwater Mr. Noyes was engaged in the liquor business in connection with his father, manufacturing and rectifying whisky for about two years. He also conducted a billiard hall for some time and had a soda water fountain. Later he spent about six months in Chicago, and subsequent to his return to Coldwater he was elected city marshal, which position he held for two terms. Later he and Frank Noyes built and conducted what is known as the Farmers' Feed Stables, beginning the business in January, 1892, and conducting the same until 1904. He then went to Denver, Colorado, where he spent three months in visiting his brother, Frank Noyes, an expert violin manufacturer, whose violins are known throughout the world, and have been tested in comparison with some of the old and famous instruments, including the Stradivarius, which are worth four thousand dollars. The violins manufactured by Mr. Noyes were found to be of superior grade and workmanship. Following his visit in the west Orlando G. Noyes returned to Coldwater, where he is now living practically retired, but he and his brother Frank own property here, including the west half of the Noyes block. The east store of the Noyes block is now owned by the Eldridge heirs, Mrs. Amelia Hobbie, of Kankakee, Ill., Mrs. Florence Vankirk, and Mrs. Josephine Smith, of Nomence, Ill. The three-story brick block at the corner of Chicago and Hanchett streets was built by S. P. Noyes, Jr., and his son, Orlando G. Noyes, in 1866, and is known as the Noyes block, located on the northeast corner of Chicago and Hanchett streets, Coldwater. He resides at No. 34 Hanchett street, where he has lived for fifty-three years.

Mr. Noyes is a member of the Masonic fraternity in good standing, and exemplifies in his life the beneficent spirit of the craft. He was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason September 10, 1869, and has since affiliated with the organization. He is likewise a charter member of Butterworth Post, G. A. R., and of the Union Veterans' Union, and he had the honor of presenting the name of W. W. Barrett, which was accepted.

Mr. Noyes was married in 1884 to Miss Emma Haines, the youngest daughter of Robert and Julia Haines, of Ovid township, Branch county, Michigan. He has lived in Coldwater for fifty-nine years and may well be

classed with the pioneers of Branch county. In early life he gave his political support to the Democratic party, and in 1872 voted for Horace Greeley, while in 1904 he cast his ballot for Theodore Roosevelt. In 1876 he delivered many political speeches in behalf of the Greenback party. He has been a close student of political economy and the questions of the day, and few men are better informed concerning the issues which now divide the two great parties. He has contributed in substantial measure to the upbuilding of Coldwater and has much more than a passing interest in its welfare and progress. On many occasions he has given active support to measures for the general good and his labors along this line have been far-reaching and beneficial.

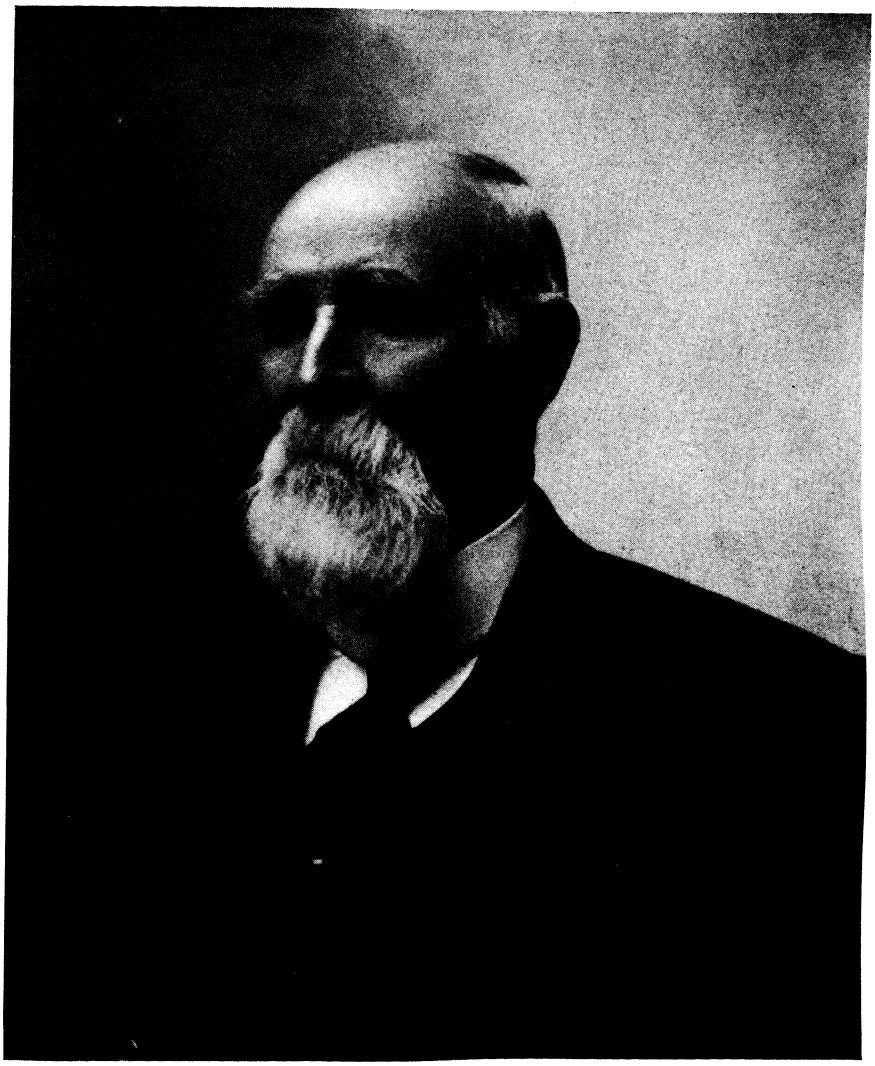
JACOB ENSLEY.

Jacob Ensley was for many years one of the prominent farmers and leading citizens of Branch county, representing its agricultural interests, and when he was called to his final rest deep regret was felt upon the part of many friends. He was a native of Ohio, born on the 22d of May, 1835, his parents being John and Lydia (McClish) Ensley, who were also natives of Ohio. Soon after coming to the territory of Michigan they took up their abode in Batavia township. They had, however, spent four months in Lenawee county, Michigan. Jacob Ensley was the second child in their family, and was but two months old when brought by his parents to Branch county, the mother carrying him from Jonesville, as she walked that distance. Amid the scenes and environments of pioneer life Jacob Ensley was reared, early becoming familiar with the arduous task of developing new land and opening up a farm. Thus his youth was largely a period of unremitting toil, and he gained the experience which enabled him to successfully carry on farm work when he afterward began business on his own account. He acquired his education in the schools of Batavia township, and desiring to establish a home of his own he secured as a helpmate for life's journey Miss Dora Robinson, to whom he was married on the 31st of August, 1862. Her parents were Nahum and Betsy (Golden) Robinson. The father was a native of Vermont, and on leaving New England went to Pennsylvania when a young man. He was a miller by trade and followed that pursuit in the Keystone state and in New York. He was married in Pennsylvania to Miss Golden, whose birth occurred in Pennsylvania. The mother died in New York when forty-five years of age, and the father afterward returned to Crawfordsville, Pennsylvania, where his last days were passed, his death occurring when he was sixty-three years of age. His business career was characterized by promptness, energy and diligence, and these qualities brought him a gratifying measure of success. Mrs. Robinson was a member of the Methodist church, and both parents of our subject were worthy and respected people, enjoying the warm regard of a large circle of friends. The father served as a private in the war of 1812, and was always loyal and patriotic in matters of citizenship. In the family were eleven children, four sons and seven daughters, five of whom reached adult age.

Mrs. Ensley was born in Chautauqua county, New York, on the 30th



Mrs O L Pierce



O L Price

of August, 1843, spent her girlhood days in her parents' home, and was a young lady of nineteen years when she came to Michigan, arriving in this state in 1861. For thirty-five years she has made her home upon the farm which is now her place of residence. This is a splendidly improved property, on which is a fine brick building, good barns and other equipments. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Ensley were born four children, but Homer is the only one now living. He is carrying on the home farm of one hundred and twenty acres, and is recognized as a progressive agriculturist of this part of the state. The others were: Grant, who died at the age of fifteen years; Burt, who died when fifteen months old; and Bertha, who passed away at the age of five years.

Mr. Ensley worked persistently and energetically as the years went by in order to improve his property and place his land under a high state of cultivation. He was a resident of Batavia township for more than six decades, having been brought to the county when it was largely an unimproved part of the state. Much of the land was still in possession of the government, and only here and there was seen the home of a settler, indicating that the work of reclamation had been begun. He was a member of the Grange, and was actively interested in all that pertained to the agricultural development of the county. He also assisted in the promotion of interest for general progress and improvement along material, intellectual and social lines, and his worth as a man and citizen was widely acknowledged. He died January 6, 1890, and thus passed away one of the honored pioneer residents of the county. Mrs. Ensley still survives her husband and makes her home upon the old farm with her son.

OREN L. PIERCE.

Oren L. Pierce is one of the old settlers of Branch county now living on section seventeen, Sherwood township. He was born in this township May 18, 1840, his parents being Jonathan E. and Lucretia D. (Lee) Pierce. The father was a native of Rhode Island but was reared in New York, in which state his wife was born, their marriage being there celebrated. They came to Michigan in 1836, settling in Sherwood township where Mr. Pierce purchased a small tract of land. They were pioneer residents of Branch county, being among the first to locate in this township and they therefore experienced the difficulties and hardships which fall to the lot of a frontier settler. Mr. Pierce gave his undivided attention to the development and improvement of the new farm, continuing its cultivation until his death, which occurred July 5, 1855, when he was about forty-nine years of age. His widow has also passed away. They were the parents of six children, of whom three died in infancy, the others being Oren L.; Mary, the wife of Andrew Dorsey; and Saphronia, the widow of Joseph Collins.

Oren L. Pierce was the third in order of birth in his father's family. He was reared in Sherwood township and in his early boyhood attended a log school house. He lost his father when fifteen years of age and since that time he has been dependent entirely upon his own resources, working by the day and month in his youth and early manhood. He has cleared

considerable land in the county including the farm upon which he now resides. At the time of his marriage he located on a small farm in Sherwood township and after cultivating it for a period sold the property and settled on section seventeen, where he has since made his home, covering a period of thirty-eight consecutive years.

In 1865 Mr. Pierce wedded Miss Louisa H. Ensign, a native of New York and a daughter of Rastus and Harriet (Pierce) Ensign. They have a son and daughter, Fred L., a resident farmer of Sherwood township, and Ethel E., at home.

Mr. Pierce now owns one hundred and twenty-six acres on section sixteen, Sherwood township. He is the oldest man living in Sherwood township that was born and reared in the township. He is a gentleman who dearly loves the chase, and has spent several autumns in the hunting season on the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and has killed nine deer. In his beautiful country residence he has a fine buck's head and antlers mounted and adorning the walls of his sitting room. He has always devoted his life to agricultural interests, but is likewise a capable carpenter and has erected all of the buildings upon his place, including his residence and barns. He possesses good business ability and executive force and deserves great credit for what he has accomplished. His political allegiance has been given the Republican party since casting his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1864. He was highway commissioner for three terms but has never been active in seeking political office or honors, content to do his duty as a private citizen. He has seen this county developed from a wild country with only a few white inhabitants to a rich agricultural district containing thousands of good homes and acres of growing towns inhabited by an industrious, prosperous, enlightened and progressive people and he has participated in the slow, persistent work of development which was necessary to produce this change, attaining at the same time a place among the prosperous residents of the county.

WILLIAM WALTER.

William Walter, interested in general farming in Kinderhook township, which is the place of his nativity, was born January 16, 1855, but comes of English ancestry. He is a son of Abraham Walter, who was born in England, and a grandson of Abraham Walter, Sr. The latter wedded a Miss Mears and on emigrating from England with their family settled in Steuben county, Indiana, where their last days were passed. Having arrived at years of maturity Abraham Walter, Jr., took up the study of medicine and practiced for many years. He was married in Kinderhook township, Branch county, Michigan, on the 5th of March, 1854, to Miss Priscilla Ent, who was born near Trenton, New Jersey, August 7, 1826. Her father was Enoch Ent and her mother was Susan Gordon Ent, both natives of New Jersey. In an early day the Ent family were residents of Monroe and of Lenawee counties, Michigan, and in the latter county Enoch Ent passed away. His wife afterward came to Branch county and departed this life in Kinderhook township at the advanced age of ninety-eight years. In the

family were seven children, but only one is now living, Mrs. Priscilla (Ent) Walter, who makes her home with her son William in Kinderhook. Following his marriage Dr. Abraham Walter engaged in the practice of medicine for a long period and was recognized as an able man and successful physician. He settled upon the farm which for a long period was called the Walter homestead, clearing and developing the land and transforming it into productive fields. He was an esteemed citizen and upright, honorable gentleman and his death was deeply regretted by many who knew him when on the 12th of August, 1902, he was called to his final rest. Unto Dr. and Mrs. Walter were born seven children, four of whom reached years of maturity, namely: William, of this review; Frank, who is living in Kinderhook township; Fred, who makes his home in the state of California; and Dora Michael, who is living in Bethel township.

William Walter was reared upon the old homestead farm in the usual manner of lads of the period, attending the public schools through the winter months, while in the summer seasons he aided in the work of the fields. On the 25th of February, 1880, he was united in marriage to Miss Mattie Stowe, who was born in Huron county, Ohio, January 29, 1858. Her father was James Stowe, a native of the state of New York, while her mother bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Sellover and was born in Ohio. There were seven children in the Stowe family, of whom two died in infancy, the others being: Mrs. Mattie Walter, the wife of our subject; Fred, a resident of Nebraska; Lutie and Della, of Coldwater; and Mrs. Alice Hildebrant, of Algansee. Mr. Stowe died in 1885 and Mrs. Stowe is still living in Coldwater. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Walter has been born a daughter, Nettie, now the wife of Harry Strank, of Fremont, Indiana.

Throughout his entire life William Walter has engaged in general farming and after his father's death succeeded to the ownership of the old homestead, comprising two hundred and twenty-five acres of rich and productive land in Kinderhook township, which he retained until 1906, when he sold the place. In all of his work he has been practical and enterprising and his labors have been attended with gratifying results. In his political views he is an earnest Republican and has served as justice of the peace and school director. His fraternal relations are with Graham Tent, K. O. T. M., of California township. He has for a half century made his home in this county, where he has a wide and favorable acquaintance.

A. LE ROY LOCKE.

A. Le Roy Locke, a member of the Branch county bar and a resident of Bronson, dates his birth in Townsend township, Huron county, Ohio, December 31, 1859, and traces his ancestry back to New England. His parents, Josiah and Malissa (Tillotson) Locke, natives of Vermont, came west to Ohio in early life, and when the subject of this sketch was two years old moved to Michigan, locating in Sherwood township, Branch county. Here they passed the remainder of their lives. Mr. Locke was educated in the public schools of Branch county, and by teaching school paved his way to the legal profession. He was a student in the office of H. H. Barlow, an

attorney of Coldwater, Michigan; was admitted to the bar in 1888, and began the practice of his profession in Mason county, this state. On account of illness, however, he did not remain there long, but went south in search of health and spent some time in North Carolina. On his return to Michigan he came first to Coldwater. In 1892 he was appointed postmaster of Sherwood, a position he filled three and a half years, when he resigned, at that time being elected circuit court commissioner. At the close of his two years' term as circuit court commissioner he removed from Coldwater to Bronson, where he is now engaged in the practice of law.

Mr. Locke is a member of the Masonic order and politically is a Democrat.

H. E. FREDERICK.

Today Branch county is thickly settled and all of its land has been claimed, and the greater part of it cultivated, its productiveness being proven in the splendid crops which are annually harvested in field and in orchard. A half century ago little work in this direction had been done and the most rapid strides made in the county toward its present development and progress have been witnessed within the last twenty-five years. During this period Mr. Frederick has been numbered among the farmers of the county, living on section 22, Batavia township, where he owns a valuable tract of land which presents a pleasing appearance owing to the improvement which he has placed upon it and the well kept condition of the fields. A native of Pennsylvania, he was born in Union county on the 6th of April, 1844, his parents being William and Catherine (Kline) Frederick, also natives of Pennsylvania. The father was born in Union county, but the mother's birth occurred in Juniata county. In their family were eight children, all sons, and with one exception all reached manhood. The father died in Ohio at the very venerable age of ninety-six years, having removed to that state in 1854, and his wife passed away when about sixty-nine years of age.

H. E. Frederick, the sixth son in his father's family, was a youth of nine years when he accompanied his parents to Erie county, Ohio. After five years he removed to Sandusky county, that state, but was married in Erie county on the 24th of December, 1872, the lady of his choice being Miss Adaline Goss, whose birth occurred in Mifflin county, Pennsylvania, on the 12th of February, 1855, her parents being Isaac and Rebecca (Manbeck) Goss. They lived for two years in Erie county, Ohio, and for three years in Sandusky, and in the spring of 1878 they arrived in Branch county, Michigan, Mr. Frederick making investment in the farm on which he now resides. Here he has lived continuously for twenty-eight years, working earnestly and persistently to develop the place, so that it will yield the best possible results for his labor. He has brought the land to a high state of cultivation, the fields being now very productive, and stock-raising has also been a profitable source of income. He has eighty acres of land, five miles from the city limits, now well improved and is classed with the substantial agriculturists of this community. In politics he was

a Republican, having supported the party since age gave him the right of franchise, and he has held some local offices, but has largely preferred to leave this to others, while he gives undivided attention to his agricultural interests. He belongs, however, to Butterworth post, No. 109, G. A. R., being entitled to membership by reason of the fact that in 1864, when twenty years of age, he responded to the country's call for troops, enlisting in Company I, One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served as a private until the close of the war. He never faltered in the performance of any military duty, taking his place on the lonely picket line or on the firing line as duty called. His activity in public affairs has made him well known in the county and his friends speak of him in terms of warm regard and praise, for he possesses a genial disposition and courtesy as well as business ability and integrity.

OLIVER B. CULVER.

Oliver B. Culver, living on section eighteen, Matteson township, was born upon this farm December 27, 1840, a son of Aliather Culver and a half brother of Jonathan Culver. The latter is supposed to be a native of Massachusetts and was of English descent. The father was born in the Old Bay state, whence he removed to Ontario county, New York, and in 1835 came to Branch county, settling in Matteson township. He was the second man to take up land from the government in this township, and Mr. and Mrs. Culver have five of the old parchment deeds, executed as follows: September 10, 1838; May 1, 1839; September 10, 1838; May 1, 1839, and May 1, 1838, which are the valuable souvenirs in the home of Mr. Culver. This makes ten deeds of the kind found in Branch county so far, and they bear the date and were executed by President Martin Van Buren. Mr. Culver entered altogether one thousand acres. He hauled his wheat to Toledo, which was the nearest market, and he built upon his place a log cabin, after which he began the active work of improving and developing the farm. One of the pioneer settlers, he was closely identified with the early history of Branch county and aided in laying broad and deep the foundation for the present development and progress of the county. In politics he was a Democrat and the first town meeting was held in his house. There were at that time not to exceed six voters in the township. Mr. Culver was chosen one of the officers and throughout his entire life he was active in his support of measures for the general good. He died in his eighty-second year, while his second wife, who bore the maiden name of Lydia Ann Baker and was a native of Rhode Island, lived to be seventy-two years of age. The father had been previously married, his first union being with Miss Amarillis Humphrey, whom he wedded in 1815. They had two children, Paulina and Jonathan H. By the second marriage there were four daughters and three sons and with one exception all reached adult age.

Oliver B. Culver is the youngest of the family and the only one now living, and he was reared upon the farm where he yet resides. After mastering the elementary branches of learning taught in the common schools

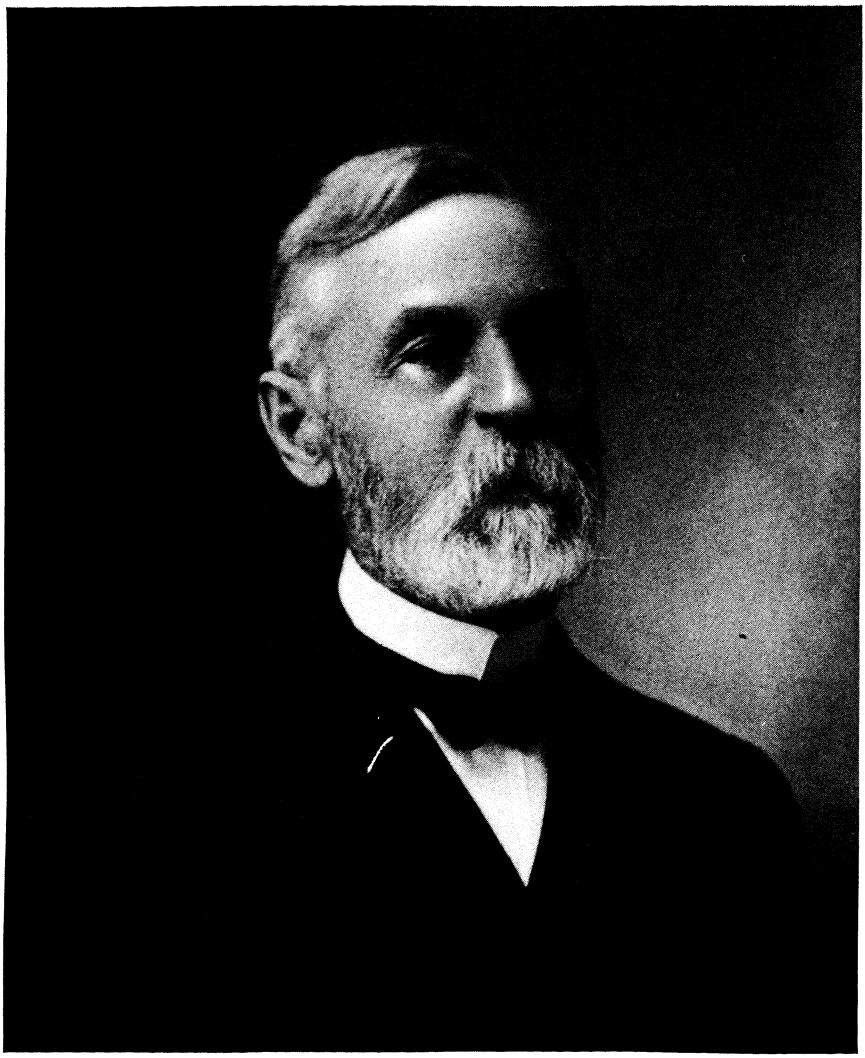
he attended the high school at Colon, and he remained at home through the period of his boyhood and youth, assisting in the labors of the home farm. On the 1st of January, 1866, he was married to Miss Mary E. Sharer, a daughter of William and Lucinda (Weed) Sharer, who was born in the township of Galen, Wayne county, New York. Mr. Culver brought his bride to the old homestead farm, where he now owns two hundred and eighty acres of productive and valuable land. He has about forty-five acres planted to fruit, including strawberries, and in fact berries of all kinds. One road for three-quarters of a mile is bordered with fruit trees. He has a number of substantial buildings upon the place, including three dwellings and buildings for packing and shipment of fruit, and he also has buildings at Colon, from which point he makes his shipments. In addition to the cultivation of grain and fruit he is also engaged in loaning money and holds a number of real estate mortgages. He has been very successful in his business life and his labors have been the source of a gratifying income.

Mr. Culver is a stanch temperance man and is independent in his political views, voting for the candidate rather than the party. He has taken an active interest in public affairs, however, and his fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, have frequently called him to office. He was clerk for five terms, was supervisor for two terms and is always loyal in his support of public measures. He is today one of the oldest settlers of the county, having for sixty-five years been a resident of Matteson township, and his memory forms a connecting link between the primitive past and the progressive present. His house was the second built between Colon and Coldwater, and therefore one of the old landmarks of the community. An account of pioneer life presents a correct picture of the experiences of Mr. Culver in his youth. He has known what it was to make his way through the primitive forests of Branch county when settlements were very widely scattered and when the homes were mostly log cabins. The cooking was done over the fireplace, the little home was lighted by candles and the farm machinery was very crude, but all this has been changed as progress has wrought a transformation and brought about a business condition that makes Branch county on a par with the older counties of the east.

JENNY C. DOUGLAS.

The life history of Mrs. Jenny C. Douglas reveals many prominent personages, both of the more remote past and in the present generation, who have been identified in divers ways with the life and times of their respective communities, and also Branch county has since its pioneer days felt the value of their influence and useful activity.

Mrs. Douglas, who was born in Syracuse, New York, January 16, 1838, is a daughter of the late and well known Havens Wilber, also a native of that city, born in 1808 and died in 1888. Originally the Wilbers came from England, settling in Connecticut, and later removed to New York. Havens Wilber was colonel in a regiment of New York militia, and was descended from Revolutionary stock. He came west to Michigan in 1850, spent one year in



Yours Sincerely
C. H. Douglas



Kindly Yours.
Lenny S. Douglas

Coldwater, and then identified himself with the incipient village of Quincy, where he was a dry-goods merchant and for one year was in partnership with Quincy's first merchant, Benjamin F. Wheat. He continued in active business connection in this town until his retirement in 1878. He was a prominent Methodist, was class leader, and, possessed of more than ordinary musical talent and being considered a sweet singer, he had, while in New York, charge of all the music of his church, and retained his interest in the art to his last days. A Democrat in his earlier years, he left that party in later life and became a Republican voter. He was prosperous from a material standpoint, and left his family in comfortable circumstances.

Havens Wilber married, November 26, 1833, Lydia L. Filer. Mrs. Douglas has in her treasured possession the Bible that was presented on the wedding day to her mother by the latter's father. Lydia L. Filer was born in Syracuse, New York, in 1814, and died in 1878, being a daughter of Asa and Mary (Fay) Filer. The Filers are an ancient American family, having come from Windsor, England, about 1620, and made settlement at Windsor, Connecticut, whence have come all the generations to the present. Of more than ordinary historic interest is the parchment passport which the first Filer obtained on leaving his native England, and this document is another relic of antiquity that Mrs. Douglas has been careful to preserve. We may also mention that she has another Bible of ancient date and revered associations, which belonged to her husband and descended to him from his grandfather, although the exact age of the volume is not known. The Filer family contained much literary talent among their individual members, although their success in material affairs was equally marked. Asa Filer, Mrs. Douglas' grandfather, was a contractor, and furnished from his quarry in New York a large amount of stone used in the construction of portions of the Erie canal.

Havens Wilber was one of six children, namely, Lydia, Anna, Amos, Havens, Celesta and Julia. Havens and Lydia Wilber had four children, as follows: Mary L., now deceased, was the wife of Edward L. Cummings, a Quincy druggist; Jennie C.; Correl H., deceased; and Sadie, the deceased wife of Dr. H. W. Gould, at one time a resident of Quincy.

Jenny C. Douglas spent three happy, but earnest years of study at Falley Seminary, Fulton, New York, and graduated with honor to her class and to herself on June 27, 1859.

In 1852 she married Lewis Conkling, whose death occurred in 1862. A native of Port Jarvis, New York, he had come to Tecumseh, Michigan, when a boy, and from there moved to Coldwater, where for a number of years he was a successful hardware merchant. Mr. and Mrs. Conkling had four children: William and Jennie G., deceased; Llewellyn, with the Packer Automobile Company of Detroit; and Gilbert Havens, deceased. Mr. Conkling was a member of the Episcopal church, and in politics a Republican.

Mrs. Douglas was married to her present husband, Charles H. Douglas, June 11, 1887. Mr. Douglas is one of the highly esteemed men of this county. He was born in Nova Scotia December 9, 1835, a son of Nathan

and Cynthia (Payzant) Douglas, the father of Scotch origin, and the mother of French. Nathan Douglas, who was a sail-maker by trade, in boyhood accompanied his father, Russell Douglas, from New London, Connecticut, to Nova Scotia. At the outbreak of the Revolutionary war Russell Douglas was a young man at New London, and was one of the defenders of that, his native town, when it was attacked and burned by the British forces under the traitorous Arnold. His family, like many of his neighbors, lost all their possessions by this event, and in compensation Congress afterwards allotted to the unfortunate citizens tracts of land in the Western Reserve of Ohio. It was to take possession of these lands that brought the Douglas family out to Ohio, and thence further west. But just before the war of 1812 Russell Douglas had moved to Liverpool, Nova Scotia, and during the war carried on his trade of sail-maker together with his son Nathan. A Yankee to the core, and of that vigorous patriotism which upholds its rights at all times and under all circumstances, he persisted, while in Nova Scotia, and despite all remonstrances, in flying the American flag from his sail loft, and there he kept it unfurled throughout the period of hostilities. During that war he was also of great assistance in caring for his fellow countrymen who had been made prisoners and detained in that part of Nova Scotia.

Charles H. Douglas, who was one of six children, has had a varied business career. He was a manufacturer of machinery in Berea, Ohio, where he and his father made most of the machinery used in the Berea sandstone quarries. He also carried on manufacturing in Chicago. He is the inventor of the well known Douglas saws and saw machinery. In politics he is a Republican of the Lincoln type, and he and his wife are members of the Episcopal church.

Tender Memories of My Dear Parents, Havens and Lydia Lavinia Wilber.

Written by Mrs. Jenny C. Douglas, Quincy, Michigan.

Few things are as potent in the power of association as memory. How sweet and comforting are the hours when we yield ourselves to its charm. Today it awakens and cheers my soul like a fragrant breath of lilac or sweet lavender, and stirs wistful memories of my childhood home, with its tender, loving guardianship, and infinite peace. My mother, with her sweet home ways, and always about her the roses and flowers she so fondly loved, and father, with his strong protecting love and care over us all; and at evening, as he brightened our home circle by reading aloud, or with his sweet voice, rendering some favorite hymn: Ah! their gentle and loving words, and tenderly fond caresses as sleeping time came. All these,

And the dear old home I see again,
With its drooping eaves, where the twittering wren
Nested so long ago;
And I breathe once more the south winds' balm
As I sit again in its twilight calm,
With my precious memories.



Yours Truly
Havens Wilber

The home life of my childhood at Syracuse, New York, was ideal. My good parents made it so. The years went by and wrought changes. Sorrows came and changed our happiness to tears. Death claimed one by one from the dear home circle. Sister Mary was first to leave us; then Correl, my only brother. And one October day in eighteen hundred and eighty-eight, when the autumn leaves were falling, and the winds sighing among the barren trees, my Precious Mother, while

A look of yearning tenderness
Beneath her lashes lies,
And hope and love unutterable
Were shadowed in her eyes,
Whispered her Good Bye.

The following July, dear sister Sadie joined our family majority; thus leaving my precious father with his eighty years and only myself to comfort him in the twilight hours that were hovering so near. In my childhood his loving heart cradled me in a sunny nest, and his gentle hand guided my footsteps in pleasant paths. Now, it was my privilege to love and comfort him in his declining years. With a prayer for guidance ever in my heart, and with the tender love and solicitude for him, I endeavored to be as loving a daughter as my mother had been a faithful wife. Father and I lived very close, each to the inner life of the other. His life had been earnest and active, ever kind and loyal, with hand and money always ready to help the suffering, or to aid in the progress and upbuilding of his home town. He gave liberally to building churches and schools, and was the first to use his influence and money toward the erection of a comfortable station house in Quincy. In his golden years he was a tower of strength, also a tender and gentle friend to all who were in need of any kindness. For many years he was a leading merchant in Quincy, and amassed a comfortable fortune. Later he was saddened by losses and injustice done him by those to whom he had been most kind and generous. It is a sad truth that in his grief his honest and trusting soul passed through a pain almost like unto a garden of Gethsemane; and the friends who saw him daily, could not realize the intensity of his sorrow over the wrongs done him by those he had trusted and loved. The eyes of sympathy are oft-times too far sighted, and overlook a kindness which lies nearest. In February, 1898, at the age of eighty-nine years and six months, after an illness of only a few hours' duration he was peacefully relieved of all his heartaches and awoke to the sunlight and joy of Heaven. With a sweet smile he often told me of his pleasure at the thought of meeting mother again; that he knew the Father above loved him, and he was ready to go. I am sure he is now happy in a new and limitless city of love and rest. His conscience was clean and void of offence toward God or man, and his death like a summer sunset. There is an old age that reaches upward into strength, and a growing old that brings to the inner spirit a benediction of love and peace. And this came to him. A river at its source rushes onward and battles with obstructions; as it nears the ocean, it loses its haste and nestles in its fulness and power

into the bosom of the mighty deep. It is the same with the river of life. Time, the pilot, guides us through the rapids and shoals, down the broadening gulf of experience to the ocean of rest which awaits us, just as sunset follows sunrise.

I am pleased to quote a portion of a letter received from my son, Mr. L. W. Conkling, who was in Montreal, Canada, at the time of father's death:

"Dearest Mother: I am deeply grieved at grandpa's sudden death, and regret I cannot be with you, as distance prevents me entirely. While we all love and revere him most dearly for all he has been to us, I know how sad this must be to you who had always lived so closely in his heart, and who held his interests in such close regard. He has left behind him an honest record, and the love and veneration of his family and friends. I am sure each of us who survive him will, in years to come, recall many noble, generous and kindly deeds, and his absolute fidelity to truth, and his friends. His life will be a golden memory for us to cherish, and have its influence for good with all who were so fortunate as to know his inner heart and life. Dear, noble, old gentleman; one of Nature's best, truest and tenderest of friends. He has left a beautiful record behind him of being always kind and loving, generous and true in all his dealings, and never selfish or unjust."

My father always had a hopeful word, and a smile for the sad hearts that are ever about us. It is the fragrance of the soul of justice and kindness to endeavor to be helpful to all, and to realize that the real effort of life is not alone for food and clothing, but for truth, kindness and love and to remember the balances of God are always justly poised. There is beauty in a violet and glory in a solitary star. Together they lead us, not to winged fancy, but to higher truth, and the Divine understanding of the tender influence and value of a kindly word, and a hopeful smile.

FREDERICK W. STEWART, M. D.

Dr. Frederick W. Stewart, who in the practice of his profession has gained a patronage such as is accorded only in recognition of skill and ability, was born in Ontario, Canada, February 22, 1861, his parents being Alexander and Mary Jane (Baldwin) Stewart, the former a native of Prince Edward Island, Ontario, and the latter of New Brunswick, Ontario. Both are still living, their home being in Ontario, Canada.

Dr. Stewart was reared and educated in the place of his nativity, attending the public schools until he had mastered the elementary branches of learning, after which he attended Woodstock (Ontario) College. He followed his more specifically literary education by a course in Cleveland Medical College, from which he was graduated in 1891, and he then located for practice in Chardon, Ohio, where he remained for two years. Dr. Stewart arrived in Coldwater in 1893, and has since been a representative of the medical fraternity here. He is thoroughly informed concerning modern methods of medical and surgical practice, and had been a citizen of Coldwater for only a brief period when he demonstrated his ability to successfully cope with the intricate problems that continually confront the physician. He now has a large and growing practice, his pro-

fessional duties making constant demand upon his time, and he enjoys the confidence and good will of his professional brethren.

In 1892 Dr. Stewart was married to Miss Minnie H. Lymburner, a daughter of Aaron and Maria Lymburner of Ontario. They have two children: Roscoe E. and Beatrice E. The parents are prominent socially, enjoying the hospitality of many of the best homes of Coldwater. Dr. Stewart has taken an active part in political matters and is now chairman of the Republican county committee and also of the Republican city committee. His labors have been effective in promoting the success of the party, for he is well qualified for leadership and has so directed the affairs of the party as to get out its greatest strength. His fraternal relations are with the Masonic lodge, the Knights of the Maccabees and the Woodmen of the World, and he belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church. He is not so abnormally developed in any direction as to be a genius, but has so directed his efforts as to develop a well rounded character and his activity along social, political, moral and professional lines makes him a valued resident of his adopted city.

REBUEN J. THATCHER.

Reuben J. Thatcher, the owner of one of the nicest country stores of Branch county, conducting business at Algansee, was born in Hillsdale county, September 18, 1856. His father, Samuel Thatcher, was a native of the state of New York and was of English ancestry. He followed the occupation of farming and was married in the Empire state, whence he removed to Michigan, prior to the Civil war. He established his home in Hillsdale county, where he purchased a tract of land and opened up a farm, becoming one of the respected agriculturists of the community. His political allegiance was given to the Republican party. He married Orsarilla Cheney, who was born in the state of New York, and was a daughter of Joseph and Rhoda Cheney, likewise natives of that state. Mr. Thatcher passed away in 1863 at the comparatively early age of forty-four years and was long survived by his wife, who died October 11, 1903, at the age of seventy-eight years. They were members of the Baptist church. In their family were six children: Esther, who was born in 1847, is the widow of Emory Forbes, and resides in Monroe, Michigan; Ai, born in 1849, died in 1877; Arminda, born in 1851, is the wife of James Sherman, a farmer of Algansee; Esmeralda, born in 1854, married Jack Broughton and died in 1876; Reuben J. is the next of the family; Ida, born in 1859, is the wife of Theodore Jackson, of Kansas.

Reuben J. Thatcher was reared upon the home farm and attended the country schools. After putting aside his text-books he followed agricultural pursuits for about fifteen years and then in 1874 removed to this county, subsequent to which time he traveled for an agricultural implement firm for about eight years. At the time of his marriage, in 1881, he took up his abode on a farm in Algansee township, where he remained for nine years, and in 1890 he embarked in merchandising in the village of Algansee, where he still carries on business, having one of the best country stores

in the county. He has a large and carefully selected stock and his earnest efforts to please his patrons, together with reasonable prices and straightforward dealing have brought him a very desirable and profitable business.

In 1881 Mr. Thatcher was married to Miss Dessie Bates, whose birth occurred in California township, this county, August 26, 1861. Her father, Archibald Bates, was a native of Huron county, Ohio, and at an early day established his home in Branch county, settling in California township, where he followed general agricultural pursuits. At the present time, however, he is living retired in Auburn and has reached the age of sixty-nine years. He wedded Sarah Smith, also a native of the Buckeye state, and now sixty-nine years of age. In their family were five children; Charles, deceased; Dessie, now Mrs. Thatcher; Daisy, the wife of Fred Faulkner, who is engaged in the jewelry business as a member of the firm of Parish & Company, in Coldwater; Ida, who is employed in a dry goods store in Auburn, Indiana; and Fred, also living in Auburn. Mr. and Mrs. Thatcher have a daughter and son: Pansy, who was born in 1887, and is the wife of Nelson Martin, of Algansee; and Charles, who is in the store with his father. The parents are members of the Congregational church, in which Mr. Thatcher is serving as deacon, and he is also enrolled as a member of the Odd Fellows lodge, the Maccabees tent and the Independent Order of United Workmen. In politics, an ardent Republican, he served as deputy sheriff for about thirteen years under Sheriffs Kinney, Sweet and Swayne, and he puts forth every effort in his power to promote the growth and insure the success of his party, for he is in hearty sympathy with its principles, believing that its platform contains the best elements of good government.

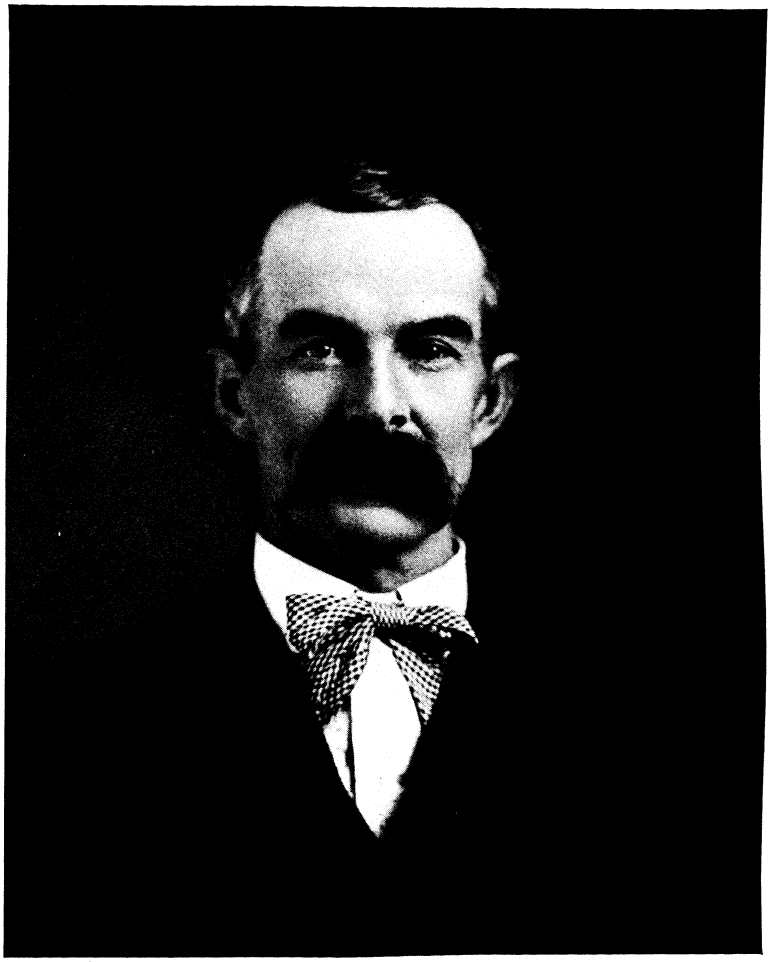
GEORGE KINTER.

Among the early settlers of Branch county George Kinter is numbered, for his birth occurred in a log house still standing on section nineteen, Batavia township, on the 7th of March, 1849. A marked transformation has been wrought in the county and its condition since that time, for the log cabin has long since been replaced by the frame residence or the stone or brick dwelling, and where was once the unbroken forest are now seen highly cultivated fields and scattered here and there are the churches and schools that indicate the intellectual and moral development of the community.

Mr. Kinter is a son of Richard Kinter, a native of Pittsford, Monroe county, New York, whose birth occurred about 1810. He came to Branch county in 1840, settling on what has since become the old family homestead on section nineteen, Batavia township, where he built a log cabin that is still standing on the place as one of the mute reminders of the pioneer days. The barn was built in 1848 and is also standing. He was a pioneer settler who cleared away the trees and turned the first furrows in the fields, his entire life being given to general farming. He was always a Republican in his political views and he took an active interest in political questions and issues of the day, and in all the affairs relating to local progress and improvement. He wedded Miss Mary Powell, a native of Pittsford,



Amanda L. Cox.



Frank Cox

Monroe county, New York, and who lived to be sixty years of age, passing away in Batavia township, July 30, 1883, while Mr. Kinter died at the age of fifty-five years. They were well known and respected pioneer residents of the county and in their family were three sons and two daughters, all of whom reached mature years, while four are still living. Mr. Kinter is the third child and second son. His youth was passed in Batavia township, where he acquired a good education, attending the common district schools and after putting aside his text books he entered upon his business career, being employed at bridge work by the Fort Wayne Railroad Company for about eighteen months. With this exception he has been a constant resident of Batavia township, and he now owns and conducts a farm of eighty acres, the land being well tilled and devoted to general farming. He raises here the crops best adapted to soil and climate and he annually gathers good harvests, for which he finds a ready sale on the market.

Mr. Kinter was married in 1874 to Miss Libby Ballou, a native of Matteson township and a daughter of Jefferson and Jemima (Pierce) Ballou. Mrs. Kinter was born in Matteson township and acquired her education in the Lindley school. At the time of their marriage the young couple located on the old homestead farm where Mr. Kinter was born, and they have two children: Rena May, now the wife of John Burns, of Matteson township, residing upon what is known as the old Jefferson Ballou farm; and Leo, who aids his father in the operation of the home place. The wife and mother died on the 24th of February, 1895, and her many excellent traits of heart and mind had endeared her to a large circle of friends, so that her loss was deeply deplored throughout the community, as well as within the home circle. Mr. Kinter in his political views is a stalwart Republican where national issues are involved, but largely votes independently at local elections. He served as justice of the peace for two years and then resigned on account of the ill health of his wife. Having lived in this county for fifty-five years he has a wide acquaintance, being known to a large number of its citizens, and sterling traits of manhood have gained him the respect and good will of all with whom he has been associated.

FRANK LE GRAND COX.

Prominent among the agriculturists of Girard and Branch county is the gentleman named above, who comes of good old eastern stock and who was born in Sherbourne, Chenango county, New York, February 24, 1853. The paternal grandfather of our subject was George Cox, who lived for many years in New York city. Frank Le Grand Cox was the eldest son of a family of ten children. His father, also bearing the family name of George Cox, was a native of New York city, where he was born January 26, 1824. The father lived in New York until he was twenty-eight years of age and he was married in the empire state in 1851 to Mary S. Brooks. They came to Michigan in October of 1853, when their eldest son, Frank, was only nine months old, locating in Coldwater, this county, where they lived for thirteen

years, afterwards removing to Girard township, where they lived upon a farm until twenty-three years ago. Thereafter they lived in Union City, where Mr. Cox died in 1900, and where Mrs. Cox still resides.

Frank L. G. Cox has consequently been a constant resident of Girard township for the past thirty-nine years and has lived upon his present farm since 1886. Of the ten children born to his parents, one died in infancy and one son died at the age of seventeen years. The eight still living are as follows: Frank L. G., of Girard; Morris Enos, Will, Ada Mildred Thompson, Alfreda Belle Bell and Lillian Philo, all of Union City; and Alice A. Olney, of Traverse City, Michigan. The three brothers hold responsible positions in mechanical lines, while the four sisters have comfortable homes. All are constant in their ministrations of their aged mother at Union City.

Frank L. G. Cox was married November 27, 1872, to Amanda L. Everitt, who, although a native of the state of New York, has been a resident of Girard since she was nine years old. Her parents were Daniel and Mary Jane Palmiteer, pioneers of Girard, who were the parents of four children: Clark, who died at the age of thirty-five years; Wolsie, who died in 1894; Mrs. Emily Worden, of Girard; and Mrs. Frank L. G. Cox, of Girard. Mr. and Mrs. Cox have one daughter, Mary, who was married in 1898 to Frank Lyman, a descendant of one of the old and respected families of Girard.

The subject of this sketch, Frank L. G. Cox, has not only been notably successful as a farmer, but he is also widely known throughout Branch county. He has been called upon on numerous occasions to fill positions of public trust and responsibility, his fellow citizens recognizing in him those sterling traits of trustworthiness and ability which they constantly seek in their public officials. Although he has always been an ardent Democrat of the Jeffersonian school of politics, a political party greatly in the minority in this section of the country, nevertheless he has been called upon on numerous occasions to serve his constituents. Beside filling minor offices, he was chosen as supervisor of Girard township in 1896 and re-elected for no less than seven additional terms in succession. In this position he not only performed valiant service for his township, but was also looked upon as one of the leading members of the Branch County Board of Supervisors, serving upon the more important committees of that official body and making his influence constantly felt in the line of economical and efficient administration of public affairs. He is such a man as his friends and neighbors delight to honor, not alone from personal friendship, but because they feel that in his hands their public interests will be carefully and judiciously looked after. Mr. Cox is still a young man, but his life thus far has been filled with a usefulness not often seen excepting in men of more advanced years. He belongs to a number of fraternal orders, having been for many years affiliated with the Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Loyal Mystic Legion, the Grange and the Patrons of Industry. He has a fine farm of one hundred and fifty-five acres on sections twenty-three and twenty-four, Girard township, the same being under

good cultivation and equipped with good buildings, the whole property showing that care which proves its owner a careful farmer and one with ideas of beauty and neatness.

FRANK M. DANIELS.

Frank M. Daniels was born in Florence township, St. Joseph county, Michigan, January 29, 1844, and is one of the leading citizens of Branch county, who for many years was identified with its best interests. His father, Amassa Daniels, is a native of Tolland county, Connecticut, and was a son of John Daniels, who is supposed to have been born in Scotland. At all events, his father, John Daniels, Sr., was a Scotchman, and was by trade a shoemaker. John Daniels, the grandfather of our subject, became a millwright and followed that pursuit in New England. Amassa Daniels remained in the county of his nativity through the period of his minority, acquiring his limited education there, but when he had reached the age of twenty-one years he removed from Connecticut to Pennsylvania, where he engaged in business as a lumberman. About 1815 he removed to Genesee, New York, and in 1836 he came to Michigan, settling in St. Joseph county, in the fall of that year. He purchased land and improved two farms in Florence township, clearing three hundred and twenty acres of land. He was very successful as a farmer, being practical and enterprising in his methods and so directing his labors that he annually received a good financial return for his work. He died in his eighty-eighth year, being at that time one of the most venerable citizens of his county and a man who was respected and honored by all who knew him. He lived an upright life, although not allied with any church and his motives and principles were such as would always bear close investigation and scrutiny. In antebellum days he was an opponent of slavery, endorsed the abolition movement and made his home a station on the famous underground railroad until the Republican party was formed to prevent the further extension of slavery. Twice married, his first union was with Olivia Hammond, a sister of his second wife, and by that union there were nine children, five sons and four daughters, all of whom reached manhood or womanhood. His second union was with Sophia Hammond, also a native of Tolland county, Connecticut, and a daughter of Eli Hammond, a descendant of Thomas Hammond, of English lineage. Mrs. Daniels departed this life in her sixty-third year. She had become the mother of six children, all of whom reached adult age, with one exception.

F. M. Daniels was the fourteenth member of his father's family and was the fifth child of the second marriage. He was reared in the place of his nativity until twenty-one years of age, and acquired his education in the country schools, supplemented by two terms' attendance at Beloit College, in Beloit, Wisconsin. He engaged in teaching school for three winters in Greenwood, McHenry county, Illinois, but the greater part of his life has been devoted to agricultural pursuits. He lived for one year in Batavia township, Branch county, Michigan, and in that year, 1868, he took a very active part in politics, it being the year of the Grant campaign.

He served as secretary of the Grant Club in Batavia township, and labored untiringly to promote the success of the Republican party. On leaving Wisconsin he went to Iowa, and afterward to Kansas and to Texas. He was engaged in the railroad service for about four and a half years on the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad, being station agent at Chetopa, Kansas, for three years. He was afterward transferred to the Houston & Texas Railroad, with which he held a responsible position. Later he became interested in the Zimmerman refrigerator car building, at Dayton, Ohio, and went with the first carload of fresh meat shipped by the refrigerator process to Boston. This was the beginning of the refrigerator car business of Swift, the well known meat packer, for Mr. Daniels sold out to that company. After residing in Detroit for a time he went to California in 1884, there remaining for five years, during which period he worked at the carpenter's trade, being at Pasadena and at Redlands. He came to Sherwood in 1892. In April of the same year Mr. Daniels married Mrs. Calinda Sawin. He has taken a very active interest in public affairs as a life-long supporter of the Republican party and is now serving for his fourth term as trustee of the village. He was trustee for four years, has been treasurer for two years, and is now serving his second term as president of the village board of Sherwood, and was highway commissioner one year. While acting in that capacity he instituted iron bridges which have since become common in the locality, and the value of which is now uniformly acknowledged. In his religious views he is a Unitarian. He has had a somewhat eventful life, visiting many portions of the country, so that he has an intimate knowledge of his native land. He is regarded as one of the representative citizens of Sherwood, active and influential in community interests, and in the various offices which he has filled he has done much to promote the general welfare.

ORION L. SMITH.

Orion L. Smith, who was born in Butler township, Branch county, in 1865, has for a number of years been successfully identified with the agricultural interests of the county and has recently transferred his attention to the coal, wood and lime business in Quincy, being an esteemed business man of that place.

His father, Abram Smith, who was born near Somerset, this state, and died in 1870 at the age of forty-five, moved to Branch county about 1847, and continued to make his home in Butler township and part of the time in Quincy until his death. He was killed in a railroad accident. As a farmer he was prosperous beyond the average, and he also gave his attention to dealing in stock, and at his death he left a competency, and throughout his career had lived in the highest regard of his fellow citizens. He was a member of the Free Will Baptist church, and politically was a Democrat. Mr. O. L. Smith's mother was Mary Margaret Weatherwax, born in Shelby, Orleans county, New York, and is living in Quincy at the age of seventy-five years. Her lineage is German. There were three

children in the family, Armina, Luella and Orion L., but the last named is the only one living.

Attending school in Quincy and also a student in a business college at Kalamazoo, Mr. Smith by rearing and training was well fitted for an active and successful career. After leaving school he clerked awhile, and then engaged in various occupations. For a number of years he was a farmer in Butler township, and still owns his fine homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Butler township. He left the farm to operate a draying business in Quincy, and in 1903 he opened here an establishment for the handling of coal, wood, lime, cement and similar commodities. He erected the fine brick office building in which his business is located.

In 1886 Mr. Smith married Miss Hattie Beatrice Woodard, who was born in Minnesota in 1869. Her father, John Woodard, a millwright, who afterward moved to Iowa, in which state he died, and her mother, Ella Irish, a native of Minnesota, but both being of New England stock, were parents of four children, namely: Sarah Bell, the wife of W. A. Van Winkle, station agent at Dayton, Iowa; Calafern, wife of E. M. Lundeen, a banker of Dayton, Iowa; Mrs. Smith, and Oliver J., a farmer at Burnside, Iowa. In August, 1905, Mr. and Mrs. Smith adopted a child, Neta Violet, who is three years old. Fraternally Mr. Smith is an Odd Fellow and Knight of Pythias, and his politics is Democratic.

HENRY HOYT BARLOW.

Henry Hoyt Barlow, who has given his undivided attention to his professional duties since entering upon the practice of law, is now ranked with the leading members of the Coldwater bar, and the large clientage accorded him evinces the public confidence in his ability. He is a native son of Michigan, having been born in Hastings, June 10, 1850, and is a representative of a distinguished pioneer family of the state. The Barlows are of English lineage and the first of the name to come to America settled in Connecticut. Later generations went to New York and afterward came to reside in the west. Nathan Barlow, grandfather of Henry H. Barlow, was a pioneer resident of Michigan, settling in Barry county. He was not only active in business affairs but was also an influential factor in public life, representing his district in the state legislature, as did his son Nathan Barlow, Jr. The latter was a native of New York and became a merchant and prominent business man of Hastings, Michigan, where he resided for many years. He married Miss Malissa Tyler, also a native of the Empire state.

Henry Hoyt Barlow was reared in Hastings to his sixteenth year, when he entered the University of Michigan, which institution conferred upon him the Bachelor of Arts degree at the time of his graduation with the class of 1870. He was then but twenty years of age. He returned home and spent about a year in his father's store. In 1871 he was appointed superintendent of the city schools of Hastings, and after acting in that capacity for a year he took up the study of law. In 1872 he came to Coldwater and entered the law office of the late Judge N. T. Loveridge,

with whom he formed a partnership in November, 1873. This relationship was continued for fifteen years, and for two or three years Mr. Barlow was a partner of H. C. Loveridge, since which time he has been alone. His legal business has constantly grown in volume and importance and mention of the bar of Branch county at once suggests Mr. Barlow as one of its leading members.

Mr. Barlow was married, in 1874, at Coldwater, to Miss Emma Etheridge, who died leaving two sons, Nathan and Burt E. The former is a graduate of the Northwestern University, and having completed literary and medical courses in the University of Michigan is now engaged in the practice of his chosen profession in Stronghurst, Illinois. Burt E. pursued a literary course in and is a law graduate of the University of Michigan, and is now practicing with his father, the firm of Barlow & Barlow being a prominent one at the Coldwater bar.

JOHN DUNLAP.

John Dunlap, an intelligent, enterprising and influential farmer, is living in California township. It was in this township that he was born on the 5th of November, 1850. His father, William Dunlap, was a native of Ireland, born in county Antrim, and in that county he was married to Miss Jane Adams, a native of the same county. Soon after his marriage he came to the United States, locating first in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, whence he afterward made his way into the interior of the country, settling first in Lenawee county, Michigan, in 1830. After six years there passed he removed to Branch county in 1836, becoming a pioneer resident of this locality, who aided in reclaming a wild district for the purposes of cultivation. He secured one hundred and sixty acres of land from the government which was mostly unimproved. He has in his possession two of the parchment deeds executed by President Andrew Jackson, and which are valuable souvenirs. This property was situated on sections four and five, California township, and not a furrow had been turned thereon, but he at once began the work of development and in the course of years placed the entire tract under the plow and gathered from the cultivation of his fields bounteous harvests. He made his home ever afterward upon this farm, both he and his wife dying here. Theirs were the usual experiences of pioneer life, a home remote from other settlers, land that was uncleared and uncultivated demanding arduous labor in its development; few comforts in the house, either in the way of furnishings or in supplies for the larder, and yet there was much happiness in that pioneer existence. At no time has the feeling of hospitality been surpassed and the early settlers were always willing to help one another in their work. Mr. Dunlap was for several years the owner of the only wagon in the township and this was in great demand by the other pioneers. In his family were five sons and one daughter, all of whom reached years of maturity, namely: Thomas, who is now living in Algansee; William, who was a surveyor and died in the state of California; Matilda, who died in this county; Alexander and James, who died in California township; and John,

of this review. The death of the father occurred in June, 1884, after a residence of more than a half century in Michigan. His wife survived him until December 24, 1887. Both were devout Presbyterians in religious faith and at all times were true and loyal to the church, giving their aid and influence for the moral development of the community. Mr. Dunlap was a Democrat in his political views, but without aspiration for office. He concentrated his attention and energies upon his business affairs and he assisted all of his sons in securing farms, buying land and helping them to clear their fields.

John Dunlap, the youngest of his father's family, was reared upon the old homestead farm and remained with his parents up to the time of his marriage, which was celebrated on the 22nd of October, 1874, Miss Ellen Vance becoming his wife. She was born in Maryland, September 22, 1856, and when eight years of age was brought to Branch county, Michigan, by her parents. Her father, Alexander Vance, was born in Ireland, November 28, 1833, and was married there in 1853, when twenty years of age, to Mary Barnhill. Soon afterward he came to America with his wife, and for three years they resided in Brooklyn, where he was employed as conductor on a street car. They then removed to Baltimore, where for ten years he managed a six hundred acre farm, but attracted by the possibilities and opportunities of the middle west, he came to Branch county in 1864 and purchased eighty acres, to which he afterward added fifty acres. The original tract was cleared, it being one of the first farms that was settled in this township. He gave his further attention to the development of the property and became recognized as one of the leading agriculturists of the community. In his family were ten children, of whom six are now living, Mrs. Ellen Dunlap being the fifth in order of birth. The mother departed this life in 1880 and Mr. Vance is now living among his children. He is a member of the United Presbyterian church, to which his wife also belonged.

Mr. Dunlap first became the owner of real estate in 1872. His original farm comprised eighty acres, to which he afterward added until within the boundaries of his place are now comprised one hundred and twenty acres. He is an intelligent agriculturist, carefully directing his labors so that the farm produces excellent crops. In all of his work he is practical, and a glance at his place indicates the careful supervision of a painstaking owner who thoroughly understands his work.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Dunlap have been born three daughters and one son: Jane, who died at the age of twelve years; Ella, the wife of Clarence Goodwin, a resident of California township; Belle and James, at home. Mrs. Dunlap is a member of the United Presbyterian church. Mr. Dunlap belongs to Greenleaf Lodge, No. 349, A. F. & A. M., and also to the Ancient Order of United Workmen. His political allegiance was originally given to the Democracy, but at the time of the McKinley campaign he became an advocate of Republican principles and has since supported the party. He served as supervisor for two years, has been township treasurer for two years, highway commissioner for two years and moderator of the school district

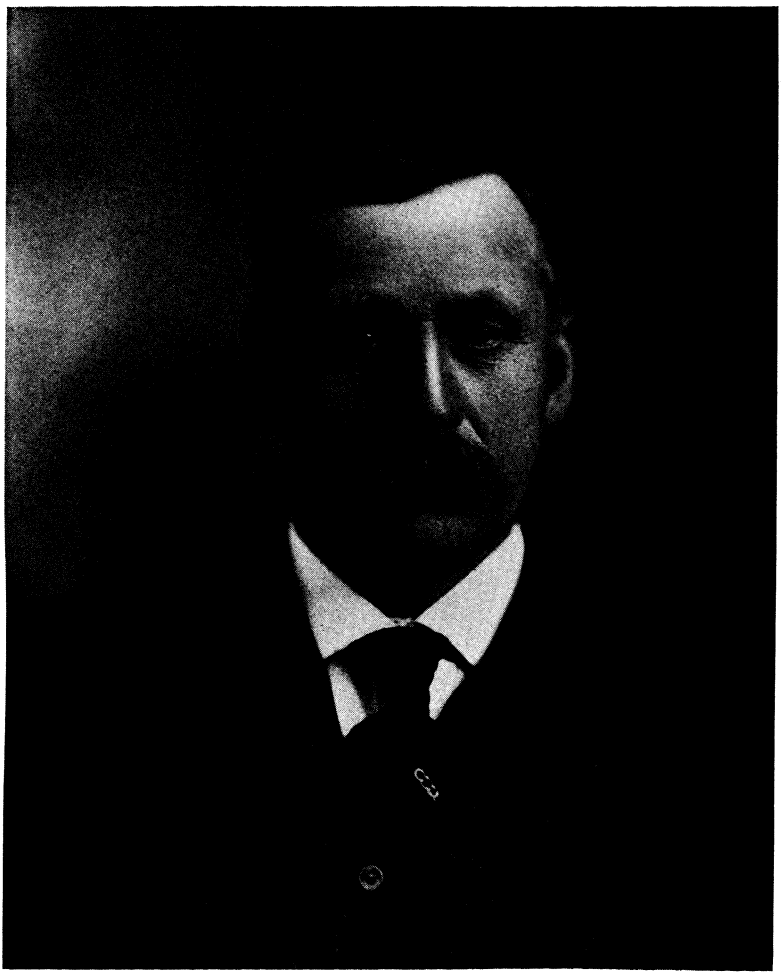
for several years. He is a prominent man of the township and uses his influence for the betterment of the county, belonging to that class of citizens who always uphold the legal and political status of every community.

GEORGE A. BURTON.

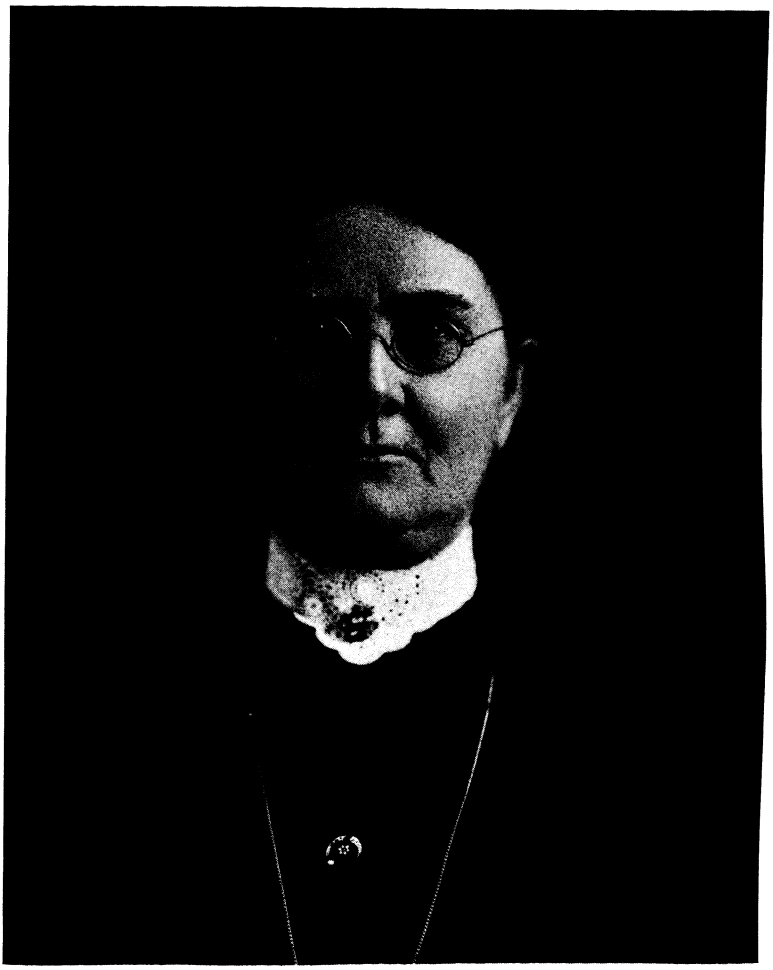
George A. Burton, who for eighteen years has efficiently served as superintendent of Oak Grove cemetery in Coldwater, was born near Batavia, New York, November 2, 1852, a son of George and Amanda (Holbrook) Burton. His father was born in Massachusetts, April 3, 1791, eight years before George Washington died, and was married twice, having five children by the first marriage, although only two came to Michigan: Nathan A., who died in Kalamazoo in 1892; and Mrs. Potter, who died in Reading in 1899. Mr. Burton of this review was the only child of the second marriage. The father died May 24, 1863, in Oakfield, New York. The mother, who was born in Genesee county, New York, October 23, 1820, came to Michigan with her son, G. A. Burton, after the death of her husband and spent her remaining days in Branch county, passing away July 1, 1877.

George A. Burton was a lad of thirteen years when he accompanied his mother to this state and after attaining his majority he began farming on his own account, living in Butler township for nine years. He then left this county and spent the succeeding year in Petoskey, Michigan, after which he took up his abode in Coldwater township, where he devoted his time and energies to general agricultural pursuits until he assumed his present position as superintendent of the Oak Grove cemetery. This is one of the finest cemeteries in southern Michigan and its beauty, artistic arrangement and excellent condition are largely due to the efforts of Mr. Burton. Although he has never made a systematic study of landscape gardening, he has natural ability in that direction and has greatly adorned the cemetery through his care of flowers, grass and trees, until its beauty is noted by all.

On the 15th of December, 1874, Mr. Burton was united in marriage to Miss Mary J. Holmes, who was born in Kent county, Canada, February 27, 1855, and was educated in the schools of Canada and Homer, Michigan. Her father, Irwin Holmes, and her mother, who bore the maiden name of Elspeth Grant, were both natives of Canada, and the latter died when their daughter was only four years of age, while Dr. Holmes passed away in the spring of 1898. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Burton have been born two children: Luella M. Burton, has been provided with liberal educational advantages and for the past two years has acted as state factory inspector. She has become known throughout the United States for her beneficent work in this regard, doing much for the amelioration of the hard conditions under which the factory girls have labored. Lyman D. Burton, the son, was reared upon the old homestead and is one of the prosperous young farmers of the county. He married Miss Elizabeth Hoffert, and with their adopted child they reside upon the Burton farm in Coldwater township. Mrs. Mary Burton has a brother, Lawrence Holmes, of Homer, Michigan, and a sister, Mrs. Maggie Irish, of St. Louis, Missouri. The husband of Mrs. Irish is



Geo. A Burton



Mrs George A Burton

superintendent of Shaw's Botanical Gardens at St. Louis, and has held that position a number of years.

Mr. and Mrs. Burton reside in a pleasant home in the cemetery grounds. His long retention in his present position is evidence of his worth. He has a wide and favorable acquaintance throughout the county to which he come in his boyhood days and where he has now made his home for about forty years. As to the religious faith of Mr. and Mrs. Burton, they are members of the Methodist Episcopal church in Coldwater. They are both devotees of the principles laid down in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows' fraternity, he being a member of the Subordinate Lodge No. 31, the Encampment No. 86, and Canton Milnes No. 21, passing all the chairs. Mrs. Burton and her daughter are members of the Rebekahs, they having also passed all the chairs, and father, mother and daughter have been delegates to the Grand Lodge at various times. Mrs. Burton at the present writing is deputy of the order. Mr. Burton is a stanch Republican in his political views. They have an old violin which is over a century old, having been passed down from generation to generation, while also in their home is one of the old coverlets as a souvenir, which was woven by some of their early progenitors.

IRA KELLSY.

Ira Kellsy, whose home is on section seven, Ovid township, where he owns and cultivates a farm, belongs to that class of valued and representative citizens that the Empire state has furnished to Branch county. His birth occurred in Castile, Wyoming county, on the 7th of November, 1823, and he has therefore passed the eighty-second milestone on life's journey. His father, Ransom Kellsy, was a farmer by occupation and became one of the early residents of Ovid township. His birth occurred in Washington county, New York, where he was reared and married. He wedded Miss Tina De Groaff, who also spent her childhood in the Empire state. They were the parents of ten children, five sons and five daughters, Ira Kellsy being the second in order of birth. The father continued to make his home in New York until called to his final rest, and he cast his ballot for the men and measures of the Democratic party.

Ira Kellsy was reared in the state of his nativity and came to Branch county in 1848, when a young man of twenty-five years, for he believed that he might enjoy better business opportunities and more rapidly acquire a competence in this new but growing section of the country. He bought forty acres of land in Ovid township and carried on farming for four years, after which he returned to New York. Later he went to Illinois, whence he afterward came to Branch county and located upon the farm which is now his home in Ovid township. His entire life has been devoted to general agricultural pursuits and he has a well improved property that annually returns to him a gratifying income.

In February, 1866, Mr. Kellsy was married to Miss Katherine Lockwood, a daughter of Uriah Lockwood, one of the pioneer settlers of Branch county, who came from New York to Michigan in 1836 and entered a

quarter section of land from the government. He and his sons cleared the farm which is now the home of our subject. Unto Uriah and Charity Lockwood were born ten children, five sons and five daughters, most of whom were reared in Branch county. In his later years Mr. Lockwood divided his property among his children. He was a Whig in his political views until its dissolution, then he joined the ranks of the Republican party. He was well known and highly esteemed throughout the community, and his death, which occurred in September, 1865, was deeply regretted by many friends. It was in the following February that Mr. and Mrs. Kellsy were married, and they located upon what had been her father's farm, Mr. Kellsy giving his time and labors to its further development and improvement. He has been a life-long Republican, unfaltering in his support of the party, yet never seeking office for himself. He has now passed the eighty-second milestone on life's journey and his has been an honored and upright career, characterized by activity in business and reliability in all trade transactions, so that he receives the respect and confidence of all who know him.

REVEREND WILLIAM T. LOWRY.

Reverend William T. Lowry, now engaged in the insurance and coal business of Coldwater, has been identified in various ways with the material, intellectual and moral progress of the city, and his labors have always been a helpful and beneficial factor. His birth occurred in Monroe county, New York, March 3, 1840. His father, James Lowry, was also a native of the same county and there spent his entire life, passing away at the age of forty-eight years. He was of English lineage and always followed the occupation of farming in order to provide for his family. He married Agnes Richmond, a native of Scotland, who came to America when a young lady. William T. Lowry is their only son, and he has but one living sister, Margaret, who is the widow of C. C. Beardsley.

Rev. William T. Lowry was reared in Wyoming county, New York, and after attending the common schools continued his education in Middlebury Academy. He was at one time a fellow student of Mr. Folsom, whose daughter, Frances, became the wife of Grover Cleveland. Later Mr. Lowry pursued his education in what is now called Colgate University of New York, and was graduated from that institution. He entered the theological department in 1866, completing his course in 1868, after which he entered upon the active work of the ministry, locating in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He there remained for three years, after which he came to Coldwater, Michigan, and for ten years was a representative of the ministry in this city. On the expiration of that period he turned his attention to the grocery business, and in other ways he has been closely connected with the material development and social, intellectual and moral progress of Coldwater. For two years he was superintendent of public schools and through a long period was a member of the board of education, during which time he exercised his official prerogatives in the support of all progressive meas-

ures for the cause of public education. He is now engaged in the insurance and coal business, and in both departments of activity has a good patronage.

Rev. Lowry has been a life-long Republican, somewhat active in the party, which he has supported since he cast his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln in 1860. He was supervisor from the Third ward of Coldwater for about six years, and at all times has been loyal to the public trust reposed in him, enjoying in full measure the confidence and regard of those with whom he has been associated.

EDWIN KELLOW PEARCE.

Edwin Kellow Pearce, a leading dry goods merchant of Quincy whose prosperity is the outcome of his recognition of business opportunities, his unremitting diligence and his keen sagacity, is a native of Devonshire, England, his birth having there occurred June 1, 1861. His father, Theophilus Pearce, was born in England, was a farmer by occupation and departed this life at the age of seventy-eight years. He married Maria Kellow, also a native of England, and she is now living in Devonshire at the advanced age of eighty-four. They were the parents of fourteen children, seven sons and seven daughters, all of whom have married and reared families of their own.

Edwin K. Pearce spent the days of his boyhood and youth in England, acquiring his education in its public schools, and in 1885, when twenty-four years of age, came to the United States. He had previously served an apprenticeship to the dry goods trade in Plymouth, England. He first located in Detroit, where he entered the dry goods establishment of L. A. Smith & Company as a clerk, continuing with that house for seven years, a fact which indicates his faithful service and his efficiency. On the expiration of that period he went to Hillsdale and secured employment in the store of Boyle & Brown, where he remained for six years. In 1898 he came to Quincy and in connection with Mr. Lyon, of Hillsdale, purchased the dry goods stock of J. C. Joiner, the firm of Pearce & Lyon conducting the business for three years, at the end of which time Mr. Pearce purchased his partner's interest and has since been alone. He carries a carefully selected line of general dry goods, cloaks and carpets and has an up to date establishment. In fact his store would be a credit to a city of much greater size than Quincy.

Mr. Pearce was married to Miss Florence Weaver, a daughter of J. C. Weaver of Durand, Illinois, and they have one child, Edwin George, born in 1901. Mrs. Pearce is a member of the Presbyterian church and Mr. Pearce of the Episcopal church, but he acts as leader of the choir in the former. His political views uphold Republican principles, as he has continuously supported that party since age gave to him the right of franchise. He has had no occasion to regret his determination to make America his home and enjoy the advantages here offered, for he has found good opportunities and the ready reward of persistent and earnest labor.

He is today a successful man by reason of his earnest purpose, honorable methods and close application, and is now a representative merchant of Branch county.

GEORGE EDGAR BURDICK.

Although this is essentially the age of the young man, when we see responsible positions well and capably filled by men who are still in their twenties and thirties, nevertheless it is seldom that we find one so young as our subject placed in so important a position as he. For the past three years he has been superintendent of the Branch County Infirmary and Hospital, and that he performs his duties in a highly satisfactory manner is evidenced by his retention in this capacity.

Mr. George Edgar Burdick was born in Coldwater township, October 12, 1870, and his entire life has been passed in Branch county with the exception of six years, when he was engaged in the drug business at Marcellus, Michigan. He is descended from two of the highly respected and oldest families of this portion of Michigan, the Burdicks and the Howes, his father being James Burdick, who was born in Tioga county, New York, December 18, 1839, and his mother being Minnie Howe, who was born in Kirkland, Ohio, October 24, 1843.

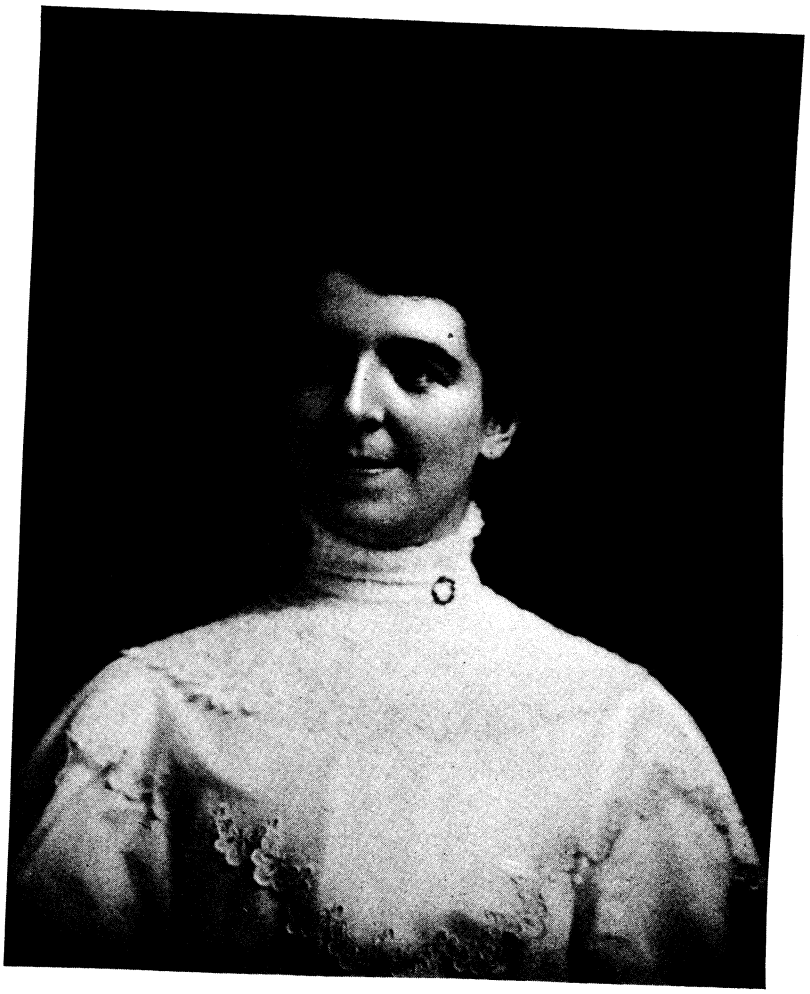
James Burdick's father was also named James Burdick, and his mother was Mary Lewis. They were both natives of the state of Rhode Island and they were married in New York state, being the parents of twelve children, only two of whom are now living—James, the father of our subject, and Mrs. Betsy Harrison, of Climax, Michigan. The father died in the state of New York, while the mother, Mary Lewis Burdick, died in Calhoun county. Our subject's father, James Burdick, was but five years of age when he was brought to Michigan by his parents, their home being first in Calhoun county, although they afterward removed to Branch county, where James Burdick still resides, he being one of the highly esteemed agriculturists of California township. James Burdick has been a life-long Republican and has upon many occasions been called upon to fill positions of public trust and responsibility, being township treasurer for several terms, justice of the peace for an extended period, highway commissioner for several years, and holding other local offices.

James Burdick and Minnie Howe Burdick are the parents of six children, all of whom are living, as follows: Mrs. Lena Short and Carrie Parker, of Coldwater; Hiram Burdick, of California township; George E., our subject; Arthur Burdick, of Bloomington, Illinois; and Addie Burdick, of Coldwater. Mr. and Mrs. Burdick are still living on their comfortable farm home in California township, where they possess the high regard and esteem of a large circle of friends.

Our subject's maternal ancestors, the Howes, were also early pioneers of Michigan. His maternal grandfather was Hiram Howe, who married Caroline Harrison, who was descended from the same branch of the Harrison family as the late lamented President Harrison. They were married in



Geo. E. Burdick.



Mrs. George Edgar Burdick.

Ohio and reared a family of twelve children, only two of whom are now living—Minnie Howe Burdick, mother of our subject, and Frances Howe Gardner, of Coldwater. The Howes and Harrisons were both originally from Connecticut, and they located in Ohio in an early day, afterward coming to Michigan in 1854 and locating in Athens, Calhoun county, where they lived for twelve years, then removing to Coldwater and Branch county, where the maternal grandfather and grandmother of our subject passed the remainder of their lives.

Our subject, George E. Burdick, was reared upon the home farm, securing meanwhile a good common school education, which was supplemented with a course of study at the Indiana State Normal School at Angola, Indiana, where he completed the commercial course in 1892. Since attaining manhood he has been known as a successful farmer and has also been engaged in mercantile lines and various other enterprises. That he has a natural aptitude for his present position is not strange when we consider the fact that his ancestors, the Howes, as well as many present day members of this family, have long been known in the eastern states as prominent institution people, being at the head of reformatories and other establishments of this character there. During the incumbency of his brother-in-law, the late A. T. Short, as superintendent of the Branch county farm, he spent considerable time as an assistant here, and this, together with his eminent fitness for the position, led to his selection to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Short. That the selection was a wise one has been clearly demonstrated during his administration of over two years. The position is a peculiar one, requiring tact and executive ability, and Mr. Burdick has capably met every demand therein. The farm is a large one and the institution has constantly as inmates from thirty-five to forty-five dependents and assistants. Mr. Burdick is a Republican, politically, although never an office holder until the present time, and the tax-payers of the county, as well as the county superintendent of the poor, consider him the right man for the place.

Mr. Burdick was married May 24, 1905, to Miss Cora May Blackman, of Quincy, Michigan, who is the daughter of Dr. Edson Blackman, of that place, appropriate biographical mention of whom and family may be found elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Burdick was reared in Quincy and she graduated from the high school of that place in the class of 1893, afterward filling a responsible position in the Quincy postoffice for two years under Postmaster McKay. Mrs. Burdick has since her marriage been matron of the Branch county poor institution, and she shares with her husband the duties and cares of the same. It may be readily seen that it is no ordinary task to keep things running smoothly and in order in an establishment of this character, but Mrs. Burdick has filled all requirements of her position in the most admirable manner and she possesses the high regard of all the inmates, besides winning the approval of the superintendents who have an oversight here.

GEORGE CARTER.

George Carter, whose property interests include two hundred and twenty acres of rich farming land in Bethel township, and who is also the owner of one of the beautiful residences of Bronson, was born in Bethel township, September 9, 1861. His father, John N. Carter, came from Schoharie county, New York, to Michigan in 1843. He was born in May, 1817, and having arrived at years of maturity, wedded Mary Maples in Lenawee county, a daughter of Christopher Maples, of New York. He was a carpenter by trade and followed building operations in the Empire state, but attracted by the possibilities of the new and growing west he came to Michigan in 1843, first settling in Lenawee county, near Hudson, where he worked at his trade. In 1843 he removed to Bethel township, Branch county, where he invested in eighty acres of land on section sixteen. Settling on this place, he cleared away the timber and built a log house, continuing the work of cultivating and improving his farm until he had made it a good property. Later he bought two hundred and twenty acres on section fourteen. This he also cleared and placed under a high state of cultivation, making it his home until 1868, when he traded that farm for a place in Hillsdale county, Michigan. He had in 1867 bought eighty acres of land on section fifteen, Bethel township. After trading his home property he removed to Hillsdale county, but remained there for only one month, when, desiring to return to Branch county, he traded his farm for eighty acres on section seventeen, Bethel township. Upon the latter farm he resided until 1887, in which year he removed to a farm on section seven of the same township, where he owned one hundred acres of land, and in addition to this he had eighty acres in Batavia township. He carried on general farming, raising good crops and also cattle, sheep and hogs. He built several homes and other buildings on the various farms which he owned and was an energetic, enterprising and wide-awake business man. At length he distributed his land among his children, dividing his property prior to his death, which occurred in February, 1891. His widow survived him until 1894, when she, too, passed away. They were the parents of eight children: Sarah, who died at the age of eighteen years; Charles, now living in Hillsdale county; Eliza, the wife of Gilford Barnes, of Bethel township; Hervey, who made his home in Bethel township, where he died in August, 1904; John, who is living in Batavia township; Adelia, the wife of L. Fox, of Bethel township, Michigan; Emma, the wife of Fred Hoskins, who is living in Bethel township; and George, who completes the family.

In his youth George Carter attended the district schools and acquired a good practical education. He was trained to farm work under the direction of his father, whom he accompanied on his various removals, so that he was well qualified to undertake the care of his farm when his father gave to him a tract of land of eighty acres on section seventeen, Bethel township. He received this gift in 1887, in which year he was married to Miss Dora Schaffmaster, the only daughter of Christopher Schaffmaster, of this county. The young couple began their domestic life on the farm which Mr. Carter had received from his father, and here they have since lived. They have become

the parents of three daughters: May, Grace and Anabel, the sunbeam of the family circle. May is now a student in the Bronson public schools, being now in the eighth grade, and she has taken instrumental music. Grace Rolene is in the second grade of the Bronson schools. Mrs. Carter was born April 23, 1864, and was reared and educated in the Bronson public schools.

As the years have passed, Mr. Carter has added to his property, purchasing eighty acres of land on section eighteen and afterward an additional tract of forty acres on the same section, which, in addition to twenty acres on section seven, makes his realty holdings in land of two hundred and twenty acres. He has a fine home on his place, and his outbuildings are commodious and substantial, furnishing ample shelter for grain and stock, In 1902 he built the largest barn in Bethel township, it being thirty-two by one hundred feet, with a ten-foot basement. His farm is well equipped with the latest improved machinery, and everything on the place indicates the supervision of a progressive and painstaking owner, who keeps thoroughly in touch with progress in agricultural lines. In 1905 he purchased the residence of Henry Powers in Bronson. He carries on general farming, feeding all his grain, and annually sells a large amount of stock. He has been very successful in his business because he is well equipped by experience and energy for his work, and a gratifying measure of prosperity is attending his efforts. He is a member of the Branch County Mutual Life Insurance Company. In his political views he is independent. For eleven years he has served on the school board, doing effective service for the cause of education through the employment of competent teachers, and his support of progressive measures in behalf of the educational system. In all of his business dealings he is found reliable, and his life record proves the force and value of industry and perseverance as factors in winning success.

L. D. HALSTED.

[Since this sketch was compiled and corrected, Mr. Halsted has passed away, in the spring of 1906.]

The name of L. D. Halsted is closely interwoven with social development in Coldwater, of which city he has been a resident for sixty-nine years, honored and respected by young and old, rich and poor. No record of this city would be complete without mention of his life. He was born in Tompkins county, New York, July 11, 1820, and was a son of Robert H. and Catharine (Stout) Halsted, the former of English lineage and the latter of Holland descent. The father was born in the Empire state and by occupation was a tanner and furrier. He married Miss Stout, a native of Tompkins county, New York, and they became the parents of five children. About 1823 the father moved with his family to Waterloo, New York, and there both parents died.

After the mother's death, which occurred when he was ten years of age, L. D. Halsted went to Havana, New York, where he remained until sixteen years of age, during which period he learned the tailor's trade. He then came to Coldwater, Michigan, in 1836, finding here a small village containing only seventeen houses, which were scattered over much of what is today

Chicago street. On reaching Detroit on the journey westward Mr. Halsted arranged with a merchant of Branch county, Michigan, to ride with him to Coldwater, and made the trip seated upon a barrel of salt. Because of the bad roads he was obliged to walk much of the way. He carried with him a little bundle, which contained his clothing, a thimble, about a dozen needles and one dollar in money tied up in a bandanna handkerchief, but on the way the bundle was lost from the wagon, so that he reached his destination without capital or clothing, save that which he wore. He at once solicited work, however, and in due course of time developed a good business. After about six months he made arrangements to purchase a lot, for which he agreed to pay one hundred dollars, but at no one time was he able to pay more than five dollars. The unsettled condition of the city may be indicated by the fact that he was offered a lot by James Hanchett, who then owned a building adjoining the lot where Kerr Brothers' hardware store now stands, but Mr. Halsted would not accept the offered gift because he deemed the lot too far from the business district. He made it a rule of his early manhood to save something each year from his earnings, and in 1844 he was enabled to add a stock of ready-made clothing to the little tailor shop. For many years thereafter he was proprietor of a clothing store and eventually he purchased a farm, which he operated for a year. At the end of that time, however, he was satisfied with his labors as an agriculturist and returned to the clothing business, in which he continued until he sold out about 1893 and retired from active business life.

Early in the '60s George McNeil came to Coldwater from Detroit. He was an experienced tobacco manufacturer and formed a partnership with Mr. Halsted in that business. They rented a three-story building and began the manufacture of fine cut and smoking tobacco and cigars, this being the pioneer enterprise of the kind in Coldwater. The firm enjoyed a large retail trade and also soon secured a good wholesale patronage. In fact, their business grew so rapidly that they were obliged to employ two forces of men and work night and day. Mr. Halsted was appointed government inspector of cigars and stamp agent. All cigars made in Branch, St. Joseph, Calhoun and Hillsdale counties had to be brought here and inspected by him. He attached government stamps and appraised their value, but after a time Mr. Halsted felt that his increased business duties were too much for his health and disposed of his interest in the cigar and tobacco factory. This occurred about the time of the close of the war, and it was then that he removed to his farm in Quincy township. There he raised from one hundred to three hundred bushels of cranberries each year, which he took to the Chicago and Cincinnati markets, receiving seventy-five cents per bushel. Following his retirement from the clothing store Mr. Halsted devoted some attention to real estate operations and was soon the owner of more houses than any other one man in Coldwater. The income from these supplies him with all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

On the 8th of March, 1843, Mr. Halsted was married to Miss Laura A. Lake, who died September 24, 1857. In December, 1858, Mr. Halsted wedded Elizabeth Marsh, the widow of Homer A. Loomis and a daughter of

Emerson and Maria (Dickenson) Marsh. Mrs. Halsted was born in Massachusetts, January 17, 1830, and came to Branch county, Michigan, when eight years of age. She has since lived in this county. By her first marriage she had two children, of whom one is living, Ella, now the widow of W. R. Russell of Washington, D. C. By the second marriage there is also a daughter, Laura M., now the wife of T. W. Dunn, of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Halsted are prominent members of the Presbyterian church, and his life has been in entire harmony with his professions. He has never used tobacco or liquor in any form, and in all of his business dealings has been thoroughly reliable and honorable. His political allegiance has been given to the Republican party since its organization and he is today the oldest voter of Coldwater. He has never sought or desired office; in fact, has constantly refused positions of political preferment. He was, however, trustee of the church for twenty-five years, and his wife was a member of the church choir for thirty-four years. He has been a resident of Coldwater for almost the psalmist's allotted span of life, and throughout the entire period he has commanded the unqualified respect and regard of those with whom he has been associated. His labors have been of great and permanent benefit to Coldwater, as he has contributed to its commercial prosperity and has been a co-operant factor in many measures instituted for the general good. Old age does not necessarily indicate helplessness nor want of occupation. There is an old age which grows stronger mentally and spiritually as the years pass by, giving out of its rich stores of wisdom and experience. Such has been the career of Mr. Halsted—an inspiration to the old and to the young—an example well worthy of emulation.

BENJAMIN BERNARD GORMAN.

Benjamin Bernard Gorman, whose active business life has brought him into close connection with interests bearing upon the welfare and progress of the city of Coldwater, is now serving as postmaster. He is a native son of Branch county, having been born in Bethel township, April 27, 1854, his parents being Peter A. and Sarah Jane (Palmer) Gorman, the former a native of New York city and the latter of Mercer county, Pennsylvania. They were married in the Keystone state and came to Branch county, Michigan, in 1851, spending their remaining days here. Mr. Gorman was the first in his township and one of the first in the county to enlist for service in the Civil war, joining the army in response to the first call for three-months troops. While in the army he contracted a heavy cold, which eventually terminated his life. He was only six weeks in the army when he became ill, and never recovered his health, living less than a year thereafter. He followed the occupation of farming and died at the age of thirty-two years. His wife's death occurred when she was about sixty-seven years of age, and of their two sons, Edward Winfield Gorman died in this county July 14, 1897. Following the death of her first husband Mrs. Gorman became the wife of Eli Baldwin, and they had one son, Dr. William H. Baldwin, now engaged in the practice of medicine in Quincy, Michigan.

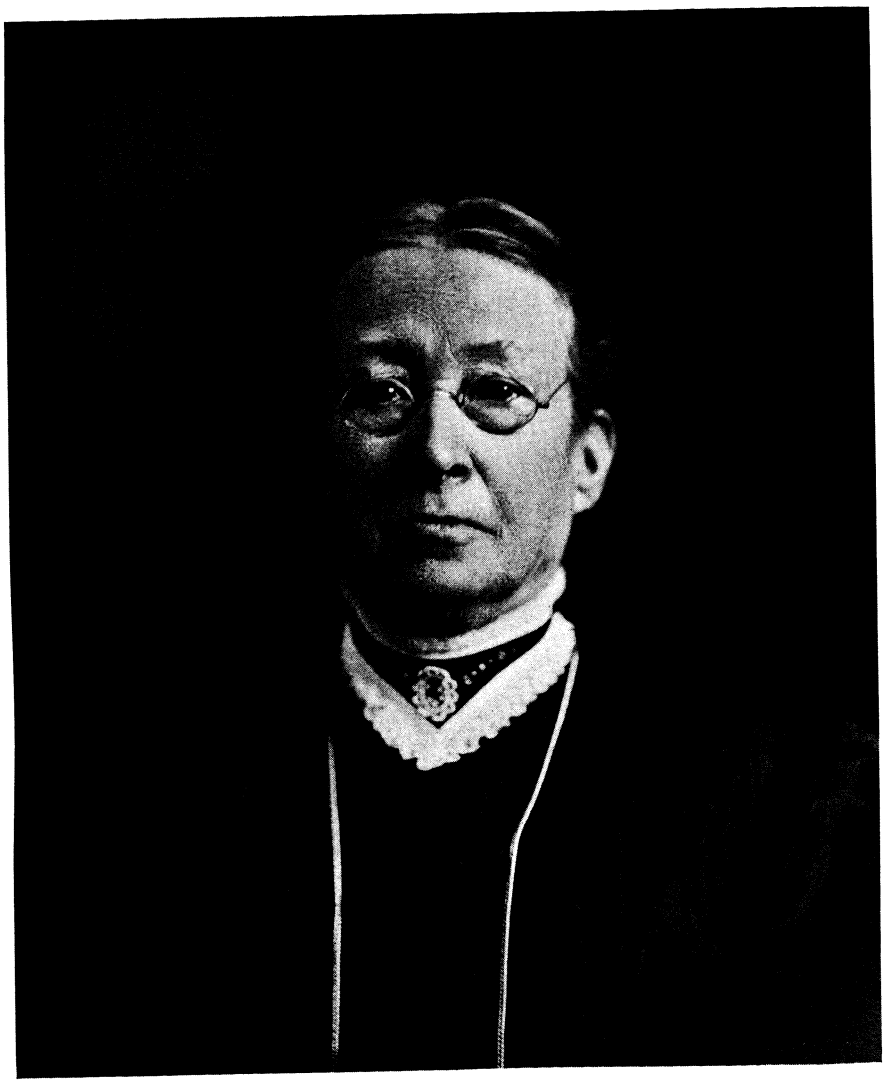
Benjamin B. Gorman was reared upon a farm in his native county, and

having acquired his preliminary education in the district schools he spent two years as a student in the public schools of Bronson, and one in Butler, Indiana, and he taught for two winters in the district schools of Bethel township, Branch county, thus entering the field of active business life. He was afterward called to the office of town clerk, in which capacity he served for two years, while for five years he was supervisor. In the fall of 1888 he was elected county treasurer and discharged the duties with such promptness and fidelity that he was re-elected, his incumbency covering four years. His official service has ever given satisfaction to his constituents and the general public, and his course has ever justified the trust reposed in him. He still owns the farm upon which he was born, and is interested in general agricultural pursuits. In 1892 he was again called to public office, being appointed deputy register of deeds, and in 1893 he succeeded to the office by reason of the death of M. B. Wakeman, who died while filling the office. In 1894 he was elected to the same position, serving for two years, but in 1896, when the Democrats carried the county, he was defeated—the only time when a candidate that he has not won the election. He is a staunch Republican, unfaltering in his advocacy of the principles of the party, and with the entire ticket he was defeated. After retiring from the office of register of deeds he was on the 5th of July, 1897, made clerk of the state public school at Coldwater, and in September, 1897, he became acting superintendent of the school, the superintendent having resigned, discharging the duties of that position until 1898. During the two succeeding years he was engaged in the grocery business, when he sold his store. He was commissioned postmaster February 15, 1902, and has since held the office. During his administration the delivery service has been increased from one rural route to nine, and an additional city carrier has been employed, making five in all. His administration of the duties of this office has been practical and businesslike, and he gives to the public a prompt and efficient service. He has twice been chairman of the Republican county committee, and under his management the entire Republican county ticket was successful.

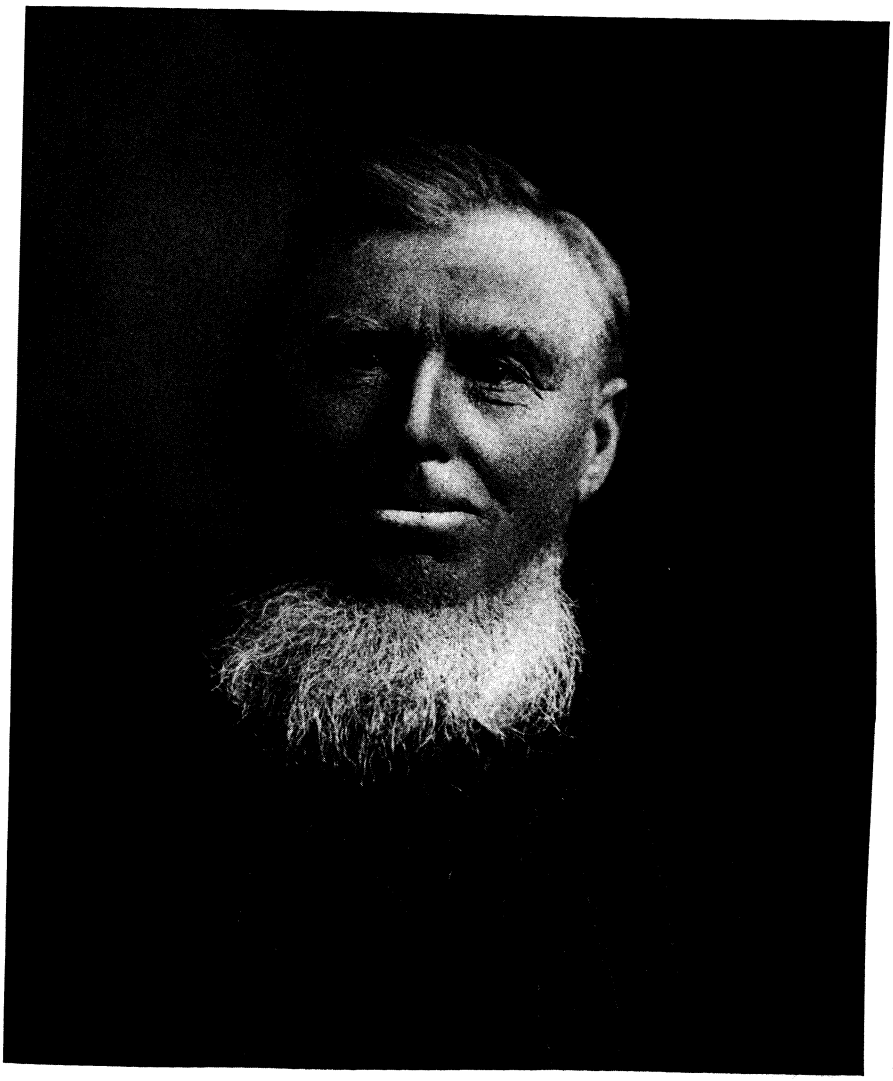
In 1876 Mr. Gorman was married to Miss Susie I. Jones. They have a daughter living, Elsie L., and have lost one daughter and one son, Carlton L., the latter dying at the age of twenty-one years, shortly after his return from college, while the daughter, Winnie Bernice, died when she was but three years of age. The family have a pleasant home in Coldwater, and its hospitality is enjoyed by a large circle of friends. Mr. Gorman, genial, courteous and affable, is widely known and popular in Coldwater and the county, and his public service, like his private life, commends him to the regard and admiration of those with whom he comes in contact.

STEPHEN NEWMAN.

Stephen Newman, who is the owner of valuable property interests in Branch county, his home being in Coldwater township, where for many years he has been actively engaged in farming, was born in Staffordshire, England, on the 14th of December, 1836, his parents being William and Mary (Cope) Newman, who always lived in England. He had four uncles



Ann Maria Newman



Stephen Newman

and two aunts on the paternal side and three of the uncles came to Michigan while the fourth took up his abode in Rochester, New York. It was Thomas, John and Joseph Newman who settled in the southern part of this state, while James retained his residence near Rochester. The two aunts were Mrs. Elizabeth Thorpe and Mrs. Sarah Allen, of England. All of the representatives of the family in this generation are now deceased. John Newman was for many years a prominent and leading farmer of Branch county. He came from England to the new world in 1836 and after devoting a few years to agricultural pursuits in New York made his way westward to Branch county, where he successfully carried on agricultural pursuits and as the years passed by accumulated a handsome competence. Three brothers of Stephen Newman are yet living in England, but he was the only representative of his immediate family who came to the United States.

Stephen Newman spent the days of his boyhood and youth in his native country, acquired his education in the public schools there and in early life followed different business pursuits. He was married on the 28th of August, 1864, to Miss Ann Maria Bushell, whose birth occurred in Birmingham, England, on the 17th of August, 1836. Her parents were James and Diana (Shaw) Bushell.

A few years after his marriage Stephen Newman came to the United States with his little family, attracted to the new world by the opportunities which were described by his uncle, John Newman, who was then a resident of Coldwater township. Stephen Newman had only sixty cents when he arrived in Branch county, but he at once became assistant to his uncle John, who was already a land owner here. When he had acquired sufficient capital Mr. Newman of this review made his first purchase of land, becoming owner of eighty acres in Coldwater township in connection with his uncle. Through untiring labor and unremitting industry supplemented by capable management he has accumulated considerable property and now owns two hundred acres of valuable land in the home farm which has been placed under a high state of cultivation. The well tilled fields surround good buildings for the shelter of grain and stock and there is also a fine residence on the place. His uncle never married and made his home with Mr. Newman of this review until his death, which occurred on the 4th of May, 1901. He was one of his uncle's legatees and now possesses the greater part of his property in addition to that which he has acquired through his own efforts.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Newman have been born four children: Albert Edward, who was born in England, March 23, 1866, married Emma Tuckerman and resides in Assyria, Barry county, Michigan, where he is following the occupation of farming. Agnes, born July 15, 1873, died September 12, 1877, at the age of four years. William James, who was born April 28, 1875, and lives in Coldwater, married Rose Ryder and they have one daughter, Ada Harriet. Helen, born June 9, 1880, is the wife of Arthur E. Van Aken and they reside in Battle Creek, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Newman have carefully reared their children, giving them good educational advantages and thus fitting them for life's practical and responsible duties.

Their son, Albert E., was educated at the Indiana Normal College in Valparaiso, Indiana, while their daughter Helen attended the Coldwater High School, also pursued a commercial course in Battle Creek, Michigan, and filled good positions in that city up to the time of her marriage.

While living in his native country Mr. Newman became a member of the Odd Fellows society and held all the offices of the local lodge. He and his wife are Episcopalians in religious faith, being communicants of the church in Coldwater. In his political views he is a Republican and has served as school director of his district but otherwise has held no offices, preferring to give his time and energies to his business affairs, in which he has met with a gratifying measure of success. Both he and his wife are people of natural culture and refinement, who occupy an enviable position in social circles here. Their home, which is a short distance east of Coldwater, is a most comfortable one, but Mr. Newman expects soon to give the management of his farming interests to others and remove to the city, there to enjoy a well earned rest in honorable retirement from labor.

AARON O. FOX.

Aaron O. Fox, who is engaged in general farming on section nine, Batavia township, was born in Summit county, Ohio, February 18, 1852, and is the second child and eldest son in a family of three sons and two daughters, whose parents were Levi and Susan (Steinmetz) Fox, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. The maternal grandfather, Casper Steinmetz, was a native of Germany. The paternal grandfather was Peter Fox, who was born in England and when a young man crossed the ocean to the new world, settling in Pennsylvania. Levi Fox was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, where he spent the days of his boyhood and youth and was married. About 1850 he removed to Summit county, Ohio, where he followed the occupation of farming, and there his death occurred when he was fifty years of age. His wife long survived him and departed this life at the advanced age of eighty-four years.

Aaron O. Fox, who spent his youth in the place of his nativity, was indebted to the common-school system of Summit county for his early educational privileges, while later he spent two years as a student in Buchtel College at Akron, Ohio. When twenty years of age he engaged in teaching school, following that profession for some time. In 1881 he came to Branch county, Michigan, settling in Batavia township, where he engaged in teaching school and farming. He had fifty acres of land, which he cultivated until 1893, in which year he purchased an adjoining tract of eighty acres, so that his farm now comprises one hundred and thirty acres. In that year he gave up the work of teaching and has since devoted his attention exclusively to general agricultural pursuits.

In 1876 Mr. Fox was united in marriage to Miss Ellen Kauffman, a daughter of Abraham and Anna Kauffman, and a native of Ohio, born near Canton, Stark county. She pursued her education there in the public schools. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Fox have been born three children: Jessie, now the wife of Eugene Worden, a merchant at Union City, Michigan; Ina, the wife of

Lee Bort, a well-known farmer of Kinderhook township, Branch county; and Lola, at home.

Mr. Fox is a believer in Republican principles, feeling that the platform of that party contains the best elements of good government. He has held many local offices, such as school inspector and supervisor, being chosen to the latter position for three terms, his last term being in 1904-5. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, with which he has been identified for many years, and he is one of the active and enterprising farmers of the township and county, having made a creditable business record, characterized by diligence and honesty.

ALFONSO C. JUDD.

Alfonso C. Judd owns and operates a farm of ninety acres on section twenty-three, Matteson township, and the place is productive, annually yielding him good harvests. Mr. Judd is a native of Ohio, his birth having occurred in Lake county on the 19th of October, 1847. His father, Jotham Judd, was a native of Connecticut, his birth having occurred in Farmington, where he was reared and educated. He removed with his parents, Jotham and Hila (Bristoll) Judd, to New York, settling at Canaan, New York, which was the first town across the state line. Having arrived at years of maturity Jotham Judd was married to Miss Eliza Bardeen, and unto them was born a son, Willard B. For his second wife the father chose Henrietta Simons, to whom he was wedded in 1844. She was born in Massachusetts, October 24, 1823, and unto this marriage were born two sons, the elder being Orrin S. Judd, a resident of Anderson, Indiana. He was engaged in farming throughout his entire business career, and he passed away in 1874, when sixty-four years of age. He belonged to the Baptist church and took an active and helpful part in its work. In politics he was a Democrat and he served as township clerk in Ohio, while for seventeen years he was postmaster at Perry, Lake county, Ohio. He also acted as station agent at that place for eight years. His widow still survives and now makes her home with her son Alfonso.

Alfonso Judd, the younger, spent the first seventeen years of his life at the place of his nativity and supplemented his early educational privileges by study in Madison Seminary. He came to Branch county, Michigan, in 1865, when seventeen years of age, settling in Matteson township upon the farm where he now resides, and there he devoted his energies to general agricultural pursuits.

On the 2d of July, 1871, Alfonso C. Judd was married to Miss Helen Fisk, a daughter of James Edwin and Mary J. (Turner) Fisk, the former a native of Rhode Island and the latter of New York. They came to Michigan at an early day, casting in their lot with the pioneer settlers of this state. The maternal grandfather of Mrs. Judd was Nathaniel Turner, also a pioneer settler of Branch county, who came here about 1832. His son was supposed to have cut the first tree in Matteson township. Mrs. Judd is the fourth child and eldest daughter in a family of eight children, and was born in Matteson township November 4, 1850. At the time of their marriage Mr. and Mrs.

Judd located upon the old homestead farm where he now resides, and with the exception of a period of three years he has always lived here, his education being given to general agricultural pursuits. He owns and operates ninety acres of land, which is well improved with modern buildings and all the accessories found upon a model farm, including excellent machinery to facilitate the work of the fields.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Judd have been born four children who are yet living, and they lost a daughter, Katie. Those who still survive are: Lura, the wife of Fred Lock, of Matteson township; Mabel, the wife of Louis Conley, of Green Bay, Wisconsin; Grace, the wife of John Leonard, of Jackson, Michigan; and Earl, who married Lena Wilcox, and lives in Matteson.

Mr. Judd is a Democrat, active in the interest of the party and his fellow townsmen, recognizing his capability and public spirit, have frequently called him to office. He served as highway commissioner for one year, was treasurer for one year, clerk for three years and is now serving for the eighth year as supervisor. In the discharge of his duties he has been capable and prompt, and he is well known in the county as a man of genuine worth, loyal to his duties in all life's relations. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity at Bronson and is held in high esteem by all who know him.

SAMUEL R. TURNER, M. D.

Among the recent additions to the professional ranks of Bronson, Michigan, is found Dr. Samuel R. Turner, who came here from the neighboring state of Indiana in September, 1904.

Dr. Turner is a native of Freeport, Illinois, and was born May 13, 1858, a son of Samuel and Jane E. (McGlashon) Turner. His father, a native of Ohio and a farmer by occupation, died in 1864, and his mother, a native of Vermont, died in 1884. Samuel R. received his early education in the public schools of Lake county, Indiana, and subsequently, on choosing the medical profession, went to Louisville, Kentucky, where he took a course in the medical department of the University of Kentucky, and graduated with the class of 1888. Returning to Lake county he at once began the practice of medicine there, and practiced in that county until coming to Bronson, with the exception of four years in Lansing, Illinois. He was coroner of Lake county from 1899 to 1904, and was medical examiner for the New York Life and the Aetna Life Insurance companies, and also for several fraternal insurance organizations. From 1901, for nearly four years, he was in hospital service at Hammond, Indiana, where he had excellent opportunities for study and further preparation for his life work.

Dr. Turner has been twice married. In 1883 he wedded Miss Henrietta Burgess, by whom he had four children, viz.: Sue E., Edna, Harold and Wilma. His present wife, nee Kate Weed, he married in 1905. Mrs. Turner is a daughter of Thurlow A. Weed, of Pullman, Illinois.

Politically the doctor is a Republican, and fraternally he is identified with numerous organizations, among them being the Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, Independent Order Odd Fellows, Maccabees, Modern Woodmen of America and Court of Honor.

JOHN G. MARTIN.

Prominent among the solid and esteemed agriculturists of Branch county and the township of Coldwater is the gentleman named above, who, although not a native of this country, has spent the greater portion of his life here, where he has taken advantage of the resources offered by no other nation and where he has by industry and careful management attained a competence. Not only has he been successful in a substantial way, but he has also achieved success in the way of maintaining for himself a good name, and his declining days are being passed in a comfortable home, surrounded by the members of his family and possessing the high regard and esteem of his fellow townsmen.

Mr. John G. Martin is a native of West Kent, England, where he was born February 16, 1836. His father was William Martin and his mother was Mary Delphwade, both also natives of England, where their ancestors had lived for many generations. William Martin and Mary Delphwade were married in England and they were the parents of eight children, as follows: Maria died at the age of two years; Mary Martin Roswell spent her entire life in England, where she died a number of years ago; William Martin is still living and now a resident of Cassopolis, Michigan; John G. Martin is the subject of this sketch; Sarah Martin Vernes died in England; Thomas Martin is still living and a resident of London, England; Richard Martin and Henry Martin died in England where their entire lives were passed. The mother, Mary Delphwade Martin, died in England when our subject was but a child, while the husband and father, William Martin, also passed his entire life in England, where he died.

Impressed with the superior advantages offered in America, our subject, Mr. John G. Martin, and his brother, William Martin, came to this country, arriving here in 1860. John G. located first in Pittsford, Monroe county, New York, where he remained until 1878, then, attracted by the opportunities offered in the middle west, he came on to Michigan, which state has ever since been his home. In Monroe county, New York, he met and was married, in October, 1864, to Miss Jennie Harmor, who was born in Monroe county, New York, May 26, 1845. Her father was William Harmor and her mother was Lottie Hodges, both natives of England. Jane Harmor was the youngest of eight children, her parents coming from England to the state of New York before she was born. The other children of the family were as follows: Eliza Harmor Strickland lives in the state of New York; William Harmor lives in Wisconsin; John Harmor is living in Branch county, Michigan; James Harmor; Fannie Harmor Hawley is living; and Harriet Harmor Walhead died in New York state; and Fred Harmor is a resident of Dakota. The father and mother died in New York state.

The union of John G. Martin and Jane Harmor Martin has been a particularly happy one and has been blessed with the birth of seven children, as follows, their births having all taken place in Monroe county, New York: William and Frank Martin live at home; George Martin is one of the successful young farmers of Branch county and is the present supervisor of Cold-

water township, performing the duties of his office with credit and ability; Albert Martin, who was a soldier in the Spanish-American war, now resides in the city of Coldwater. The two daughters of the family, Mary Martin Swain and Emma Martin Tompkins, are both residents of Coldwater city; Harry, the youngest son, died in Coldwater when he was only six months of age. The four remaining sons are all unmarried.

Our subject, Mr. John G. Martin, has always followed farming as a life vocation and in this line he has been eminently successful. For over twenty years he conducted a dairying business near the city of Coldwater, although for the past ten years he has followed regular farming. In 1865, responding to the call of the country of his adoption, he enlisted in a New York regiment which was recruited during the last year of the war of the rebellion. His present farm is a fine one of one hundred and sixty acres on sections ten and eleven, Coldwater township, only a short distance from the beautiful city of Coldwater. It is a most fertile tract of land, equipped with excellent buildings and all of the necessary machinery and tools for successful operation, and it makes a most comfortable home. Mr. Martin is a Republican in politics, although never an office holder. Mr. and Mrs. Martin have spent honorable and useful lives and they have reared their children to occupy respected positions in life.

GEORGE MARTIN.

George Martin, who is serving as supervisor of Coldwater township, was born in Pittsford, Monroe county, New York, August 17, 1868. His father, John Martin, was a native of Kent county, England, born January 16, 1836, and was a son of William Martin, who always resided in England. The mother of our subject bore the maiden name of Jennie Harmor, and her birth occurred in Monroe county, New York, on the 26th of May, 1845. Her father, William Harmor, was a native of England, and married a Miss Hook, who was also born in that country. They became residents, however, of Monroe county, New York, and Mrs. Martin is the youngest of their eight children. She gave her hand in marriage to John Martin in the county of her nativity and they became the parents of seven children: William and Frank, who are residents of Coldwater township; Albert, who is living in the city of Coldwater, and was a participant in the Spanish-American war; Mrs. Mary Swain and Mrs. Emma Tompkins, who are likewise residents of the county seat; George, of this review; and Harry, born in Branch county, who died when six months old. The parents spent their early married life in Monroe county of the Empire state, and in the spring of 1878 came with their family to Michigan, settling in Branch county. The father had followed farming in the east and continued in this line of labor in Coldwater township, where the family has since remained. For twenty-five years he also conducted a dairy business, but he now gives his undivided attention to general agricultural pursuits, still making his home in Coldwater township. He served as a soldier of the Civil war in a New York regiment, and his life has been an exemplification of many sterling traits of character and of honorable principles.



George Martin.

George Martin was a youth of ten years when brought by his parents from the Empire state to Branch county, Michigan, and here he has since made his home. He was reared to manhood on his father's farm and assisted him in the dairy business. Soon after attaining his majority he began business for himself as a farmer and has owned at different times several farms, all in Coldwater township. In his business life he has prospered, capably conducting his interests until he has won a place among the men of affluence in his community. His present farm comprises sixty acres on sections thirteen and twenty-four, Coldwater township, which he has recently acquired and which he is now placing under a good state of cultivation. He has done much to improve farm property in the township and his labors have been of general benefit as well as a source of individual profit.

In his political views Mr. Martin is a stalwart Republican and first voted for Harrison, and has been chosen to fill several very important offices. He has been assessor in the school district for eight years and he served for several terms as township treasurer of Coldwater, and has also been township school inspector. In the spring of 1905 he was elected to the highest township office, that of supervisor, and is considered one of the leading members of the county board. He is not a politician in the usual sense of office seeking, but his constituents recognize in him those sterling qualities which make a competent official, and he has thus been chosen for important positions. He is modest in demeanor, is a great reader and keeps in touch with the general trend of thought and events of the world's history. He is thoroughly reliable and highly esteemed, and it is therefore with pleasure that we present his record to our readers.

BENEDICT DALL.

Benedict Dall, proprietor of the Coldwater city brewery, was born in Bavaria, Germany, March 18, 1852, and spent his youth in the fatherland. Educated in the schools of that country, he afterward worked in a brewery until he had mastered the business, and he also spent three years as a soldier in the German army. He came to America in 1883, then a young man of about twenty-nine years, and located in Toledo, Ohio, where he secured employment in a brewery. In 1883 he also came to Coldwater, where he spent two years, and then went to Defiance, Ohio; where the succeeding eight years of his life were passed, during which period he was connected with the Dill Brewery Company. On the expiration of that period he returned to Coldwater in 1895, and established the brewery which he now owns and conducts, it being called the Old Kappler brewery. He has rebuilt and remodeled the plant and it is now thoroughly equipped with the latest improved accessories known to the business. Its output finds a ready sale on the market and brings him a gratifying return annually.

In November, 1888, Mr. Dall was married to Miss Emma Anterman, and they became the parents of ten children: Bertha, Edward, Raymond, Mary, Louisa, Gertrude, Clara, Charlie, Leo and William. Of this number Clara is now deceased. Mr. Dall gives his political allegiance to the Republican party and is a member of the German Benevolent Society. He is well

known in Branch county and has taken an active interest in its public affairs to the extent of giving helpful co-operation to many measures instituted to advance the material development of this part of the state.

CHARLES W. GRAY.

The name of Gray is widely and favorably known throughout the southern part of Branch county, where members of the family have been respected residents ever since the earliest days of settlement. The first of the family to locate here was Abraham Gray, the father of our subject, who was born in New Jersey, February 20, 1816, he being of German-English descent. His father dying when Abraham was but a young lad, he, when only ten years of age, accompanied his widowed mother, two brothers, Levi and Everett, and two sisters, Delilah and Jemima, when they left New Jersey and removed to Orleans county, New York. Here he grew to manhood, and at the age of twenty years, in 1836, came to Michigan, locating first in Batavia, Branch county, where he remained for a few years, then coming to Kinderhook township. His first purchase was twenty-eight and one-half acres, to which he added year by year, and finally he became the possessor of one hundred and eighty-eight acres, including a forty-acre tract secured by patent from the government. In this connection it is interesting to note that this forty acres has ever since remained in possession of the Gray family, and now comprises a portion of the farm owned by Mr. Charles Gray. The land thus purchased by Mr. Gray in the early forties was uncleared, and he set to work to make a home here.

Abraham Gray was married in Steuben county, Indiana, Jaunary 1, 1838, to Harriet Towsley, who was born near Toronto, Canada, January 13, 1819, she being of Welsh descent, and theirs were the usual experiences of pioneers in a new country. Five children were born unto them, two of whom died in infancy, the three who grew to maturity being: Charles W.; William, who enlisted in the Civil war in Company K, Seventy-eighth New York Infantry, and died in the army; and Helen, who died in 1902. Abraham Gray was a man of prominence in the early history of this portion of the county, and he was highway commissioner of Kinderhook township for several terms, as well as being a school officer for many years. He and his wife were people of upright character and moral lives, and both were in early life members of the Methodist Episcopal church, afterward affiliating with the Free Will Baptist Society. Mrs. Gray died December 31, 1872, and March 8, 1875, Mr. Gray was married to Patience (Davis) Meeks, a native of Washington county, Ohio, who is still living. By a previous marriage she was the mother of two sons and one daughter. After a long and useful life Abraham Gray died at his home in Kinderhook, May 24, 1896.

Charles W. Gray was the youngest son of Abraham and Harriet (Towsley) Gray, and he was born in the township of Batavia, Branch county, Michigan, May 15, 1845. He grew to manhood upon the home farm in Kinderhook township, and here he secured a knowledge of agriculture, which was to be of great use to him in after life, at the same time obtaining a good prac-

tical education, to which he has since added by wide reading and intelligent observation. He was married, May 3, 1866, to Emeline C. Shutts, who was born in Sandusky county, Ohio, September 10, 1844. Her parents were Jonathan and Catherine (Story) Shutts, esteemed and early residents of the state of Ohio. Their union resulted in the birth of three children, one of whom died in infancy, the others being as follows: Frank D. married Lillie Hurst, and their home is in Washington, District of Columbia, where he is third assistant examiner of patents in the United States patent office. They have three children: Frances, Lowell and Helen. Minnie F. Gray, daughter of our subject, married Vern D. Garn, and they live in Steuben county, Indiana. They also have three children: Vera, Anna B. and Eva. Mrs. Gray died here, April 14, 1895, and Mr. Gray's second marriage was consummated February 20, 1896, when he was united with Mary Belle Reynolds, a native of Steuben county, Indiana, where she was born July 18, 1863. She is the eldest daughter of Wesley Reynolds and Catherine Milner Reynolds, who were residents of Steuben county, Indiana, for many years, although in later years living in Kinderhook, where they passed the remainder of their lives, her mother dying here November 23, 1874, and her father May 4, 1878. Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds had three children: Mary Belle Gray; Joanna M. Harris, who died in Iowa; and Margaret J. Blank, who lives in Nebraska.

The Reynolds family was one of the oldest in this vicinity, Mrs. Gray's paternal grandfather being Bentley Reynolds, who was born in Ulster county, New York, and who was in the war of 1812. He came to this county with the earliest settlers in 1836 and secured land from the government, which he cleared and improved. He died here in 1850. His wife was Polly C. Canright, also a native of Ulster county, New York, whose parents, John C. and Nancy Myers Canright, came to Branch county in 1835, locating in Kinderhook township, where Mr. Canright died in 1835 and Mrs. Canright in 1837. Bentley Reynolds and Polly (Canright) Reynolds had a family of eleven children, only two of whom are now living: Malvina Towsley and Mary J. Huyck, both residents of Branch county.

Mr. Charles W. Gray has always called Kinderhook township his home, for he has always retained his property here, although he lived in Steuben county, Indiana, from 1878 to 1888, where he owned a farm, which he sold in the early nineties, since which time he has lived in Kinderhook. Mr. Gray also spent three years in the state of California. His farm in Kinderhook comprises one hundred and twenty acres of the old homestead, which his father cleared, and upon which the son has since made many improvements. It is an attractive spot, with good buildings and showing the care of a practical farmer, as well as of a man who has an eye for neatness and beauty in his surroundings. Included in this farm is the forty acres which his father secured from the government. Mr. Gray's high standing with his fellow citizens has led to his selection for public positions. He was justice of the peace for twelve years in Indiana, and also a school officer for many years. Politically he is a Republican, attending well to his political duties, but never seeking office. Mr. and Mrs. Gray are members of the Congregational church. Their pretty home stands near the western banks of Lake George.

WILLIAM WILLIS.

William Willis has now passed the eighty-second milestone on life's journey, but in spirit and interests seems yet in his prime, for he gives general supervision to his farm work and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day. He lives on section seventeen, Batavia township, and has placed upon this property excellent improvements, in keeping with modern ideas of agricultural progress. He was born in Portage county, Ohio, his natal day being September 18, 1823, and was one of a family of nine children born unto William and Betsy (Alford) Willis. The father was a native of Ireland, and when a young man came to America, settling in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, whence he afterward removed to Portage county. There he died when about sixty years of age, after having devoted his life to farm work, his industry and perseverance bringing him a comfortable competence. His wife was a native of Connecticut, but her father was born in England, and when a young man came to America. A soldier, serving on a British man of war, and being captured, he became an American citizen, and remained a loyal supporter of the republic and her institutions up to the time of his death, which occurred in Portage county, Ohio. Of the family of Mr. and Mrs. William Willis only two are now living.

The subject of this review is the only representative of the family in Branch county, and as he is widely and favorably known here, the history of his life cannot fail to prove of interest to many of our readers. He was reared in Portage county, Ohio, and had but limited educational privileges, for the father died when the son was a year old, and it became necessary for him to earn his living at an early age. He displayed untiring diligence and energy and made a good home for his mother, and cared for her until she, too, was called to her final rest when about seventy-five years of age. In 1859 Mr. Willis was united in marriage to Miss Amanda Norton, also a native of Ohio, and a daughter of Lester and Susan (Johnson) Norton, and a native of Summit county, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Willis began their domestic life in the town of Filkin, Portage county, where they remained until 1863, when he sold his property there and brought his family to Branch county, Michigan, having previously purchased the farm upon which he now resides. There were but few improvements upon the place, however, and he has practically erected all of the buildings, investing over three thousand dollars in this way. He has also placed the land under a high state of cultivation, and throughout his entire life has followed farming, with the result that he is today the owner of a valuable property, comprising one hundred and sixty-five acres of rich land on section seventeen, Batavia township. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Willis was blessed with one daughter, Gertrude, who is now the wife of Charles Fields, and they have two little daughters, Nora and Lois, both in school.

Mr. Willis has long exercised his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Democracy and has done all in his power to advance the growth and insure the success of his party. He has lived in Batavia township for forty-two years and he has always kept well informed on questions of

general interest. He has been an intelligent thinker, possesses an excellent memory and in conversation one would not judge that he had by any means attained to his advanced age, for in spirit and interests he seems yet in his prime.

EDSON BLACKMAN, M. D.

Dr. Edson Blackman, well known as one of the most capable medical practitioners of Quincy and Branch county, was born in Morenci, Lenawee county, Michigan, in 1839. His father, Eli W. Blackman, was a native of Connecticut, and was of English lineage. The first record of the Blackman family in America goes back to 1636, and concerns Adam Blackman, a minister of the gospel, who settled in Connecticut. Since his death there has occurred a change in the orthography.

Eli W. Blackman was a farmer by occupation and removed to Michigan in 1835, settling in Morenci, where he made his home for almost two decades. In 1853 he took up his abode in Allen, Hillsdale county, where he spent his remaining days. His death occurred in 1866, when he was sixty-six years of age. He was a well educated man, becoming a prosperous farmer, and stood high in public regard. He voted with the Democratic party, but was never an aspirant for office. He married Jerusha Shepard, a native of Connecticut, and of French lineage, her ancestors having settled in the Charter Oak state at a very early period in the colonization of the new world, where successive generations were connected with mercantile interests. Mrs. Blackman survived her husband until 1880, passing away at the ripe old age of eighty years. In their family were four children: Sarah M., the deceased wife of George Marshall, of Allen, Michigan; John, who was killed at the age of twenty years; Edson; and one who died in infancy.

Dr. Edson Blackman acquired his preliminary education in the public schools of Morenci and Allen, Michigan, and for four terms was a student in Hillsdale College. He thus acquired a broad literary knowledge to serve as a foundation upon which to rear the superstructure of professional learning, and he entered the Eclectic Medical College at Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1865, completing the course there in April, 1866. He located for practice at White Pigeon, Michigan, where he remained until 1876, and in the latter year he came to Quincy, where he has remained in active practice to the present time.

In 1866 Dr. Blackman was married to Malinda A. Morehouse, who was born in Saratoga, New York, in 1845, and is a daughter of James and Mary A. Morehouse, the former a farmer by occupation. The mother is of French and English lineage. Dr. and Mrs. Blackman have become the parents of three sons and two daughters: Gertrude M., the wife of Fred E. Powers, a clothing merchant of Quincy; Jesse E., deceased; J. Morehouse, a physician, practicing with his father; Cora M., the wife of George E. Burdick, superintendent of the Branch County Infirmary; and Arthur W., who is a salesman in Quincy.

Dr. Blackman is fraternally connected with the Masons and the Odd Fellows, and his wife is a member of the Presbyterian church. In his political views he is a Democrat and served as township supervisor both in White

Pigeon and Quincy. For twenty-one years he has been a member of the school board, the cause of education finding in him a warm champion, and for six years he has been superintendent of the poor of Branch county. He belongs to both the State and National Eclectic Medical Associations, and in his practice has gained a proficiency that makes his services of much value to his fellowmen.

THERON GROVE.

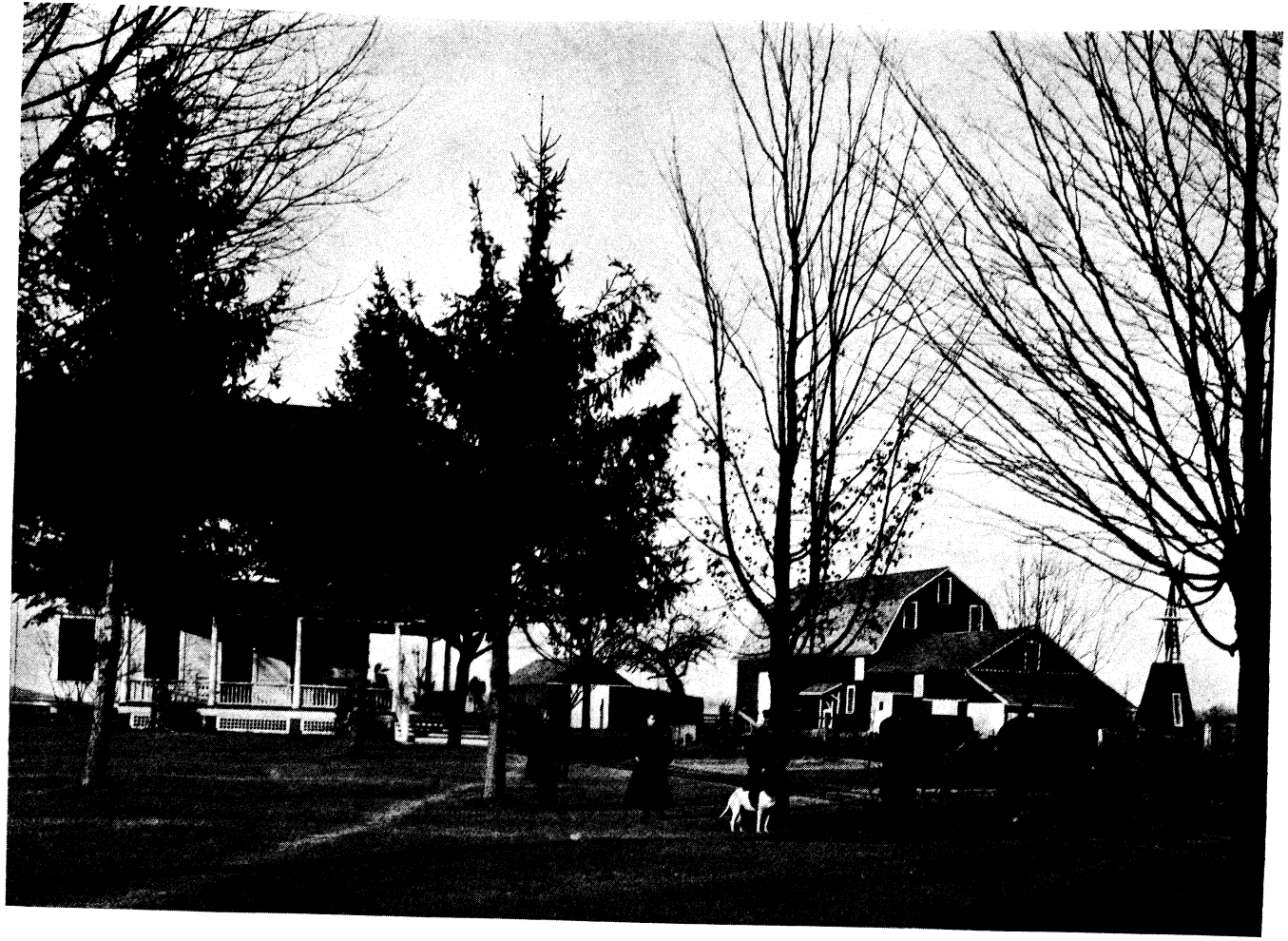
Theron Grove, who is interested in general farming on section twelve, Batavia township, was born in this township on the 6th of April, 1852. His father, Archibald Grove, was a native of New York, and came to Branch county at an early day, casting his lot with its pioneer settlers. He married Miss Jane Pitcher and died September 1, 1852, when Theron was but six months old. The mother, however, survived for many years and reached the advanced age of eighty-nine years. She passed away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Margaret Sheneman, November 16, 1903, at the age of eighty-nine years, eleven months and nineteen days. She was one of the oldest pioneer ladies of Batavia township, where she made her home for a period of sixty-six years. At her death a local paper said: "Mrs. Jane Grove, one of the oldest pioneer ladies of Batavia township, her home for a period of sixty-six years, departed this life at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Margaret Sheneman, November 16, 1903, aged eighty-nine years, eleven months and nineteen days. Immediate cause of death was a cancerous affliction of face and neck.

"Miss Jane Pitcher was born in Hartford, Connecticut, December 27, 1813, and was the last of ten children directly descended from a notably ancient family of American independence fame, and was reared and educated in the pioneer schools of bygone days. She resided with her parents until the age of nineteen, when she was united in marriage to Archibald Grove, with whom she commenced housekeeping at Palmyra, New York, which was their home for five years, and where their two eldest sons, Jerome and Elisha, were born.

"In 1837 the worthy couple, with their small children, came to Michigan, and while Branch county was naught but a wilderness, journeyed from Detroit to Batavia by way of an ox-team over a dense forest road, marked only by blazed trees, through which one must ever look upward to catch a glimpse of sunlight, finally locating on the farm now known as the Frank Barnhart property, where, with five or six neighboring families, they shared the joys, sorrows and vicissitudes of early pioneer life in Batavia.

"A family of ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Grove. The former died in 1852. Thus, at the age of thirty-five years Mrs. Grove was a widow, with nine small children to rear and care for, the youngest of which was only six months old. All the hardships, privations and struggles of a brave pioneer woman were hers. Yet she clung closely to the religion of her youth, a stanch Presbyterian.

"Years sped swiftly by, the township became more thickly settled. Her



Sunny Sides Farm, Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Theron Grove.

boys and girls grew to vigorous helpful man and womanhood, while the mother's burdens grew lighter.

"The two oldest sons, Jerome and Elisha, in their young manhood migrated to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where by industry and good business abilities they acquired comfortable and even luxurious competence, while each reared a family of four children. Jerome joined his father in the 'beyond' a goodly number of years ago. Elisha was unable, on account of his own ill health, to visit her during her last illness or to be present at the burial service.

"There are but few pioneers of Mrs. Grove's age remaining in Branch county. During the years of her enforced invalid retirement, Mrs. Grove was ever fond of a social chat with neighboring friends, and while in reminiscent mood would relate thrilling experiences, some sad, some comical, of pioneer life.

"Aside from her son Elisha of Minnesota she is survived by six children: A. R. Grove, of Coldwater, Jay and Theron, Mesdames L. M. Bowers, J. A. Murphey and Mrs. Margaret Sheneman, all of Batavia; fifteen grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. Of the latter there are two in Batavia, Luceil Murphey and Gerald Grove.

"With characteristic forethought of a long life of planning for the future Mrs. Grove also arranged details for her departure unto the unknown realm of death. The interment occurred in the Batavia cemetery beside her husband, who preceded her in death by fifty years."

Dr. Grove of this review remained at home with his mother through the period of his boyhood and youth and was educated in the district schools of Batavia township. He worked at farm labor, early becoming familiar with the duties and tasks connected with the tilling of the soil and the care of stock. As a companion and helpmate for life's journey he chose Miss Ida Wilcox, to whom he was married on the 29th of November, 1876, her parents being Monroe and Martha M. (Phillips) Wilcox, who came from Otsego county, New York, and settled in Batavia, Branch county, Michigan, in pioneer days. Mrs. Wilcox passed away in the fifty-sixth year of her age. She had been a sufferer for more than a year, but her trouble baffled the best medical skill. Notwithstanding all this she continued brave, cheerful and unrepining to the last. Her life was a continual benefaction and she was truly the light of her home. When such a one passes away we are forcefully reminded of the truth of the following lines:

"The good die first
But those whose hearts are dry as summer dust
Burn to the socket."

She left a husband, three married daughters and a son to mourn her loss and revere her memory. Mrs. Grove was born in Otsego county, June 11, 1851, and came with her parents to Michigan.

At the time of their marriage the young couple located on a farm in Batavia township and about 1882 removed to the farm whereon they now reside, where Mr. Grove has made all of the improvements, remodeled the house until he now has an attractive and modern frame residence. Within

the boundaries of his place are comprised one hundred and sixty acres of land and his attention is devoted to general farming and stock raising. He is practical in his methods, progressive in his work and successful in what he accomplishes. In the Grove home are some very valuable heirlooms of "ye olden times" handed down from progenitors of the Wilcox family. One is a large sideboard made of mahogany and cherry, which is over a century old. It was manufactured in Morris, New York, and brought to Michigan by Mrs. Grove's father. There is also an old desk with numerous drawers and pigeonholes dating back to 1793, together with an old wooden chest which is about a century and a half old. There is likewise a folding leaf table which belonged to Mrs. Grove's great-great-grandfather, who was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. These relics are in an excellent state of preservation and are valuable because of their antiquity.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Grove was born a daughter, Hazel, who died April 20, 1905, when fourteen years of age, her loss being a great blow to her parents. The following is copied from one of the local papers: "The Lord garnered a fair Easter blossom last Thursday morning when He entered the home and took their only child Hazel, to bloom for Him in paradise. November 19, 1890, Hazel first saw the light of day, in the same home where last Sunday her many sorrowing friends came to take a last farewell of her who had lived a happy, joyous life among them. During the last week of January she suffered a severe attack of la grippe, which later developed into diabetes, and all the efforts of kind physicians and loving friends were unavailing to check the disease. As the snow which fades away before a bright March sun, so her life seemed to fade away.

"Reverend Lowry, an old friend, the one who had always officiated on similar occasions for the family, spoke very feelingly of Hazel's life and of the beautiful letters which she had written to her schoolmates while on her sick bed at Ann Arbor. A world of sympathy and solace were manifested in the beautiful hymns sung by Miss Elizabeth Grove and little Verald Kleindinst. Her schoolmates, wearing a badge of mourning and accompanied by their teacher, Miss Florence Cooley, attended the funeral in a body and at the close of the services formed two lines on the wide porch between which the bearers passed with the casket.

"The storm door of the school house was decorated with a wreath of immortelles under a wreath of wild flowers, the school flag being draped above these, and as the procession made a brief halt the school bell was tolled fourteen times for the years of her earthly life. One girl friend, Miss Ina Brooks, carried a basket of bouquets of Hazel's loved wild flowers, which she distributed to the honorary bearers, the Misses Pearl Canrite, Florence Fry, Anna Lewis, Priscilla Haynes, Vesta Martin, Bertha Tyler, who placed them on the casket of their loved friend as it was borne between them to the waiting hearse, and also at the grave.

"The bearers, Masters John Vogt, Wilfred Good, John Gamby, Harold Johnson, Morley Sloman, Philip Swaffield, were also provided with the wild flower bouquets which they also placed on the casket at the grave. The many beautiful flowers and floral designs told in a measure of the heartfelt sym-

pathy which goes out from the whole community to the father and mother and aged grandfather in their sad bereavement."

Sunnyside, the attractive country home of Mr. and Mrs. Grove, is one of the most hospitable places in Batavia township. There is in this township a literary club known as the Centennial Bay View Club which has had a continuous existence through the last ten years. It has a membership of about forty of the leading ladies of the township and Mrs. Grove was one of the charter members. Mr. Grove has been a lifelong resident of Batavia township and is well known in the county. He votes with the Democracy but has never been active in politics as an office seeker, as he has preferred to give undivided attention to his business affairs. His labors have been attended with a fair measure of success and the business policy and principles he has followed have commended him to the confidence and trust of those with whom he has been associated.

ROY THOMPSON.

Roy Thompson, a farmer and highly respected citizen of Matteson township, was born March 28, 1874, on the place where he yet resides, his parents being Charles M. and Mary J. (Shedd) Thompson. The father was a native of New York and became a pioneer resident of Branch county, taking up his abode within its borders when fourteen years of age. He afterward attended school for one winter and was also a student in Peoria, Illinois. When the work of improvement and progress was still in its primitive condition here he purchased the farm now owned and occupied by his son, Roy, becoming owner of eighty acres of land, which at that time was unimproved. With characteristic energy, however, he began to till the fields and in due course of time was gathering good harvests where before was seen raw land. He was married in this county to Miss Mary J. Shedd, a daughter of Joseph and Louisa (Havens) Shedd, and a native of New York, born December 9, 1846. She was reared and educated in the Empire state, and in 1866, when a young lady of twenty years, came to Michigan with her parents, settling first in Washtenaw county and then coming to Branch county. In their family were two children. The mother died in 1848, and the father afterward married again, his second union being with Polly Turner. By that marriage there were four children. Mrs. Thompson was married one year after she came to Michigan. Mr. Thompson was living at that time upon the farm which is now his home, and he brought his bride to this place. His entire life has been devoted to agricultural pursuits, and he has won the financial reward which always comes in return for indefatigable effort, careful management and diligence.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Thompson were born five children, three sons and two daughters, of whom Roy is the third child and second son. All were born and reared on the old family homestead. The father was a Republican in his political views, active and influential in party ranks in this county, his labors proving effective in promoting party successes. He acted as supervisor of the township and was also township clerk. He served in the Civil war as a faithful and loyal defender of the Union cause, and was thus entitled to

membership in the Grand Army of the Republic. He enjoyed pleasant associations with his old army comrades through his membership in the post, and he was held in high esteem by his brethren of that order. He passed away in 1902, and the community thus lost one of its valued and representative citizens, a man whom to know was to respect and honor.

Roy Thompson was reared to farm life, was educated in the public schools and has always carried on general agricultural pursuits. He is a young man, of strong purpose, of excellent principles and upright life, and in the county where he has always lived has a very wide and favorable acquaintance.

HIRAM YOUNG.

Among the citizens of Coldwater whose active labors in former years now enable them to live retired, Hiram Young is numbered. He was born in Onondaga county, New York, October 18, 1831, a son of Isaac and Mary Young, the former a native of the Empire state, and there died, while the latter was also born in New York. They became the parents of ten children, of whom three died in early life, and seven are yet living, Hiram being the second member of this family.

In the county of his nativity Hiram Young spent the days of his boyhood and youth, and in the common schools was educated. He learned the cooper's trade under the direction of his father and remained a resident of the Empire state until his removal to Wisconsin, at which time he established his home in Washington county. There he was engaged in farming, and for five years lived in that locality. He then sold his farm in the Badger state and returned to Onondaga county, New York, where he purchased a tract of land, and in connection with its cultivation worked at his trade. At length he disposed of his property in the east and in 1880 came to Coldwater. Here he is engaged in real estate operations, and in addition to handling property for others he has bought and sold three houses.

Mr. Young was married March 18, 1856, to Miss Nancy C. Weller, a daughter of Robert and Mary (Young) Weller. She was born in Onondaga county, New York, April 8, 1835, and by her marriage has become the mother of two sons and two daughters: Earl, a resident of Seattle, Washington; Augusta, the wife of B. F. Rolph; Ida A., the wife of E. H. Williams, a cigar manufacturer; and Robert S., who is also living in Seattle, Washington.

Mr. Young is a Republican, and while never an aspirant for office, he keeps well informed on the political questions and issues of the day and is always ready to support his position by intelligent argument. He was at one time superintendent of schools in Wisconsin and has always been deeply interested in the cause of education. The list of the leading citizens of Coldwater contains his name, for his record has ever been such as would bear the closest investigation and scrutiny, and in this way he has won public regard and warm friendships. Widely known, his life history cannot fail to prove of interest to his many friends, and it is therefore with pleasure that we present this record of his career to our readers.

WILLARD WHITNEY.

Willard Whitney, an honored veteran of the Civil war, who is engaged in general agricultural pursuits in Girard township, was born in Springwater, Livingston county, New York, July 2, 1840. His father was Ezra Whitney, a native of Ontario county, New York, where he resided until his removal to Michigan. He married Miss Julia Pelton, also a native of the Empire state, and in 1849 they made their way to the middle west, locating in Jackson county, Michigan, where Mr. Whitney passed away the following year. His widow removed to Kalamazoo county, where her death occurred in 1852. They were the parents of ten children, of whom four died in childhood. The living are: Mrs. Martha Scutt, who resides in northern Michigan; Mrs. Julia F. Morey, who resides in Mecosta county, Michigan; Mrs. Leonard Whitney, a resident of Barry county, Michigan; Mrs. Nancy Hogeland, who is living in Grand Traverse county, this state; and Willard. One son, John Whitney, died a number of years ago in Iowa at the age of thirty-two years.

In taking up the personal history of Willard Whitney we present to our readers the life record of one who is widely and favorably known in Branch county and who has for many years been a resident of this state. He was a youth of nine summers when his parents removed to Michigan, and was left an orphan when a lad of twelve years. At the time of the Civil war he responded to the country's call for aid, enlisting on the 14th of September, 1861, as a member of Company E, First Michigan Infantry. On the expiration of his first term of service he veteranized in the same company and regiment. His regiment was assigned to the Army of the Potomac, "the flower of the Federal army," and he was under such generals as Rosecrans, George B. McClellan and Mead. He participated in many of the heaviest engagements of the war, including the battles of Gaines Hill, Malvern Hill, Antietam, the great battle of Gettysburg, Battle of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Fredericksburg, Campaign of Petersburg, and he was present at the scene and surrender of General Lee to General Grant at Appomattox, April 9, 1865. He was in line at the grand review at Washington, District of Columbia. He was never in hospital, nor never was taken prisoner. He was first discharged February 17, 1864, and was finally mustered out on the 17th of July, 1865, for the war had ended and his aid was no longer needed. He was a faithful soldier and has ever been a good citizen, as loyal to his country and its interests in days of peace as in days of war.

In Burlington, Michigan, on the 2nd of February, 1870, Mr. Whitney was united in marriage to Miss Helen Lee, a native of Madison county, New York. Her father was Uri Lee, who was born in Chenango, New York, January 4, 1808. He married Miss Paulina Mason, whose birth occurred in Dutchess county, New York, March 24, 1814. On coming to Michigan they located near White Pigeon and afterward removed to Burlington. Still later they became residents of Athens, Calhoun county, where the remainder of their lives was passed, Mr. Lee being called to his final rest April 17, 1875, while his wife died March 24, 1883. They were the parents of six children, namely: Harry M., who was born March 8, 1836, and died February 2, 1859;

Samuel B., who was born February 7, 1839, and died November 5, 1858; Joel, who was born February 20, 1840, and is residing in Athens, this state; Charles N., who was born September 20, 1843, and died in Athens, May 6, 1877; Mrs. Amy Brown, who was born June 3, 1852, and lives in Athens; and Mrs. Whitney, the wife of our subject.

In the year of his marriage Willard Whitney brought his bride to a farm of eighty acres on section five, Girard township, and here they have since lived. The farm is a valuable one, improved with good buildings, and its well-tilled fields yield excellent harvests. In all of his work Mr. Whitney is practical and enterprising, keeping in touch with the modern ideas of agricultural development and using the latest improved machinery in connection with the care of his fields. In all that he does he is eminently practical. In early life he was a successful school teacher, and is a man of broad mind and comprehensive knowledge, having been a wide and intelligent reader throughout his entire life.

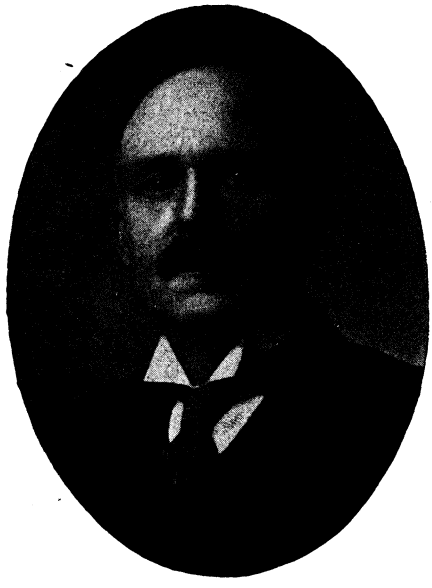
Unto Mr. and Mrs. Whitney have been born five children. Claude H., born May 17, 1871, is a graduate of the high school of Union City, Michigan, of the class of 1890, and has been engaged in various enterprises. He was married November 5, 1896, to Miss Eliza Fox of Union City and they have one daughter. Their present home is in Denver, Colorado. Lee D. Whitney, who was born May 5, 1873, was married September 22, 1897, to Luella Gillett, and resides in Burlington, Michigan. Ella M., who was born May 30, 1877, is a graduate of the State Normal School at Mount Pleasant, Michigan, and of the Albion Business College at Albion, Michigan, and is now a successful school teacher. John L., the youngest of the family, was born September 20, 1880, and is yet with his parents.

In his political views Mr. Whitney has always been an earnest Republican, but has never been an office-seeker, nor does he desire political preferment as a reward for party fealty. He and his wife are among the most highly esteemed residents of this locality. He has given to his children good educational privileges, and several of them have successfully followed teaching. In manner Mr. Whitney is modest and of quiet demeanor, yet he entertains decided opinions as to right and wrong and is unswerving in his advocacy of any cause which he espouses.

THOMAS ALFRED HILTON.

Thomas Alfred Hilton, one of the most prominent representatives of commercial circles in Coldwater and a leader in public thought and opinion here, wielding a wide and beneficial influence in behalf of many interests which touched the general welfare, was born in Birmingham, England, April 12, 1855, and represents an old family of that country. He pursued his early education in the public schools there and remained a resident of his native land until sixteen years of age, when in 1871, soon after the death of his father, he sailed for America, having heard favorable reports concerning the advantages offered to young men in the new world. Possessing laudable ambition, he desired to try his fortune here and has continuously made his home in Coldwater with the exception of a brief period of a year spent as station agent

at Fremont, Indiana. Realizing the value of education he pursued special courses of study in this country that he might be better qualified for the onerous and arduous duties of an active business career. Early in life he became a clerk in a grocery store in Coldwater and later for five years acted as salesman, bookkeeper and assistant manager for L. D. Halsted, the pioneer clothier of this city. Wishing to engage in business on his own account, he carefully hoarded his earnings and when industry and frugality had brought him sufficient capital he purchased a one-third interest in the grocery and supply concern constituting the firm of Milnes Brothers and Hilton, with which he continued during the life of the partnership agreement, and then for five and a half years was engaged in a similar business for himself on Monroe street.



THOMAS ALFRED HILTON.

At length an illness forced him to retire from the grocery business, but after his recovery he purchased a stock of clothing and in the conduct of his store has won gratifying success. He is known in Coldwater as "the best clothier," and a constantly growing patronage has brought him a richly merited measure of prosperity. In his business life he has made a record which any man might be proud to possess, for it indicates the force of his character, his adaptability and his keen sagacity. He has molded his course along the line ot such old and time tried maxims as "Honesty is the best policy" and "There is no excellence without labor." He has ever been just and considerate of his employes and few men are more uniformly respected by the general public than Thomas A. Hilton.

Had he done naught but achieve success along mechanical lines we would be justified in presenting his history to our readers as that of a representative citizen of Coldwater, but he is also entitled to mention because of the honors

he has won in public life and by reason of the honor he has conferred upon his fellow townsmen by capable and progressive service in their behalf. He has given tangible proof of his public spirit by his advocacy of aldermanic measures that have their basis in the general welfare. He served for several terms at different times as alderman of Coldwater, has likewise been supervisor and in 1895 was elected mayor, giving to the city a business-like, practical administration. For two years he served on the board of commissioners of electric light and water, and was also a member of the board of corrections and charities for six and a half years, and that he made a splendid record is indicated by the set of resolutions adopted by those with whom he served upon his retirement from the board. His political position is never a matter of question. He is fearless in defense of what he believes to be right and has ever been an earnest champion of Republican principles. He has organized and acted as chairman of several local Republican clubs and has been chairman of the county central committee of his party. To his political work he brings the same power of organization and the same keen foresight that have been salient elements in his business success. Mr. Hilton is also prominent in masonry, and for twenty years was treasurer of the Branch county fraternal benevolent association. A number of important interests of public and private nature have felt the stimulus of his energy and executive ability, and while his efforts have formed no unimportant element in promoting commercial activity here, in citizenship he has also furnished an example that is well worthy of emulation. He was one of the original members of the Independent Light Guards, and after enlistment into the Michigan state troops served for seven consecutive years, when he was honorably discharged.

HERBERT B. LOCKWOOD.

Herbert B. Lockwood, proprietor of a farm on section twenty-nine, Coldwater township, comprising one hundred and fifty-five acres of well improved land with all modern equipments, has displayed in his business life great intelligence and unfaltering energy and by the exercise of these qualities has gained a creditable name and very gratifying competence. He was born in Ovid township on the 27th of April, 1856, and when eighteen years of age removed to Coldwater township, where he has since lived. His paternal grandfather was Uriah Lockwood, who had a family of ten children, nearly all of whom settled in this part of the state, giving rise to many branches of the Lockwood family now here. His son, Jeremiah Lockwood, father of our subject, was born in Ulster county, New York, February 13, 1817, and was married to Miss Sarah E. Woodward, whose birth occurred in Chenango county, New York, June 23, 1825. She was a daughter of Archibald and Bernetta (Seeley) Woodward, in whose family were three daughters, Mrs. Matilda Sprague, Mrs. Amelia Woodward and Mrs. Lockwood. The Lockwood and Woodward families were important factors in the early development of this section of the state and were highly respected people. The Lockwoods settled in Ovid township in 1836, when hardly an improvement had been made within its borders, and the Woodwards were pioneer residents of Batavia township, afterward removing to Cold-

water township. Mrs. Bernetta Woodward reached the very venerable age of one hundred and two years, passing away on the 22nd of October, 1897, in Branch county.

Jeremiah Lockwood was a young man of nineteen years when he came with his family to Michigan, taking up his abode in Ovid township, where he performed his full share of the work connected with the development of a new farm and the reclamation of this district for the purposes of civilization. In 1874 the family removed to Coldwater township. Unto Jeremiah and Sarah Lockwood were born four children: Judson and Odessa, who died in infancy; LeRoy, a resident of Coldwater; and Herbert B., of this review. The father's death occurred in Coldwater township January 24, 1905, while his wife passed away there on the 19th of October, 1895.

Herbert B. Lockwood was reared to manhood under the parental roof, early becoming familiar with the duties and labors of the farm, and has always followed agricultural pursuits. He is practical and progressive in his methods and as the years have gone by has prospered in his undertakings. He now owns the former Woodward farm on section 29, Coldwater township, which his father owned before him and which he had assisted in clearing. The place today comprises one hundred and fifty-five acres of land that is rich and productive, responding readily to the cultivation bestowed upon it. There are excellent modern buildings upon the place, including a brick residence built in attractive style of architecture and supplied with every convenience. It is indeed a model farm home and everything about the place indicates care and intelligent methods. Mr. Lockwood was associated with Messrs. Van Anken, David Priddy and C. S. Wright in the buying and shipping of live stock for about fifteen years, and the five previous seasons he was salesman for the International Harvester Company through Michigan.

On the 3d of October, 1876, Mr. Lockwood was united in marriage to Miss Lynn Wilder, who was born in Avon, Lorain county, Ohio, February 24, 1856, a daughter of George P. and Betsy E. (Reynolds) Wilder. Her father was born in Canandaigua county, New York, while her mother's birth occurred in Elizabethtown, Essex county, New York, March 23, 1819. They became early residents of Ohio, where Mr. Wilder died. Mrs. Wilder afterward married I. N. Shaw, and since the death of her second husband she now makes her home proper with Mrs. I. Treat. In the Wilder family were eight children, all of whom reached adult age, while six are yet living, namely: Mrs. Ann Treat, whose home is in Coldwater; Mrs. Mary Walker, of Ovid; William and James, who are living in Bay City, Michigan; Raymond, a resident of Missouri; and Mrs. Lynn Lockwood. Unto our subject and his wife have been born three sons: Judson, born August 2, 1879, married Clara Lader, by whom he has a son, Howard, and they reside in Coldwater. Carl, born May 4, 1884, is a student in the Cleary Business College of Ypsilanti, Michigan, where he is qualifying for a business career. Ralph, born August 19, 1892, resides at home with his parents.

Fraternally Mr. Lockwood is connected with the Odd Fellows Lodge at Coldwater, and his political allegiance is given to the Republican party. He has served as school officer for many terms and is justly accounted one of the progressive and active farmers of his township. He and his wife have a wide circle of friends and their own hospitable home is the center of a cultured society circle, being a favorite resort with those who know them. Mr. Lockwood is a worthy representative of two of the prominent pioneer families of the county, and his lines of life have been cast in harmony with the ancestral history.

P. D. WILLBUR.

P. D. Willbur, for forty-two years in active business in Union City, and now conducting a grocery, crockery and glassware store, was born in Oneida county, New York, in the town of Florence, February 18, 1832. His father, Edwin Willbur, was a native of Madison county, New York, and was married in Oneida county to Miss Eunice S. Bellos, also a native of Madison county. The father engaged in farming in Oneida county for a number of years, and in 1844 removed to Michigan, settling in Barry county. He afterward took up his abode in Calhoun county, where his last days were spent, his death occurring in his fifty-seventh year. His wife passed away in Barry county at the age of seventy-eight years. She was twice married, first becoming the wife of Mr. Willbur, by whom she had six sons and two daughters.

P. D. Willbur, the eldest of this family, was a youth of fifteen years when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Michigan. He spent the remainder of his youth in Barry county and completed his education in the Battle Creek (Michigan) high school. He learned the cabinet maker's trade there and subsequently took up his abode in Union City, the year 1858 witnessing his arrival here. He then turned his attention to the furniture and undertaking business, which he conducted for about twenty years, and on selling out he established his present grocery, crockery and glassware store with his son, W. H., which he has carried on successfully for twenty-two years, so that he has been a merchant of Union City for more than forty-two years. Isaac Tower is the only merchant living in Union City who was here when Mr. Willbur established his first store, and Mr. Tower is now retired, so that it leaves Mr. Willbur the pioneer merchant here. Throughout the long years of his connection with commercial interests his name has been a synonym for integrity and straightforward dealing, and his business methods have always been such as would bear the closest investigation and scrutiny.

On the 5th of January, 1855, Mr. Willbur was married to Miss Mary A. Palmer, who was born in Oswego county, New York, and is a daughter of William and Mary A. Palmer, early settlers of Battle Creek, Michigan. Her father was born in England, and was one of Bonaparte's guards on the island of St. Helena. He served for sixteen years as a private in the English army. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Willbur was born a son, William H., who was born in Union City, Michigan, in 1861, and was educated in the Union City public schools. He wedded Miss Hattie Smith, and they have five children, one

son and four daughters. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he is a trustee, and he is a Prohibitionist in politics. He is a member of the Blue Lolge and Chapter in Union City, a member of the Maccabees, and his wife is a member of the Ladies of the Tented Maccabees and the Eastern Star. He is now a partner of his father, and adds the great energy and enterprise of a younger man to the broad experience and business capacity of the older, so that the partnership is a very strong one and the success which is attending the firm is very creditable and gratifying.

Mr. Willbur was a Republican in politics for many years, but about ten years ago announced his allegiance to the Prohibition party, which he has since supported. His first presidential ballot was cast for John C. Fremont, and he also voted for James A. Garfield and other Republican presidential candidates. He has twice been alderman of the village, but has never sought or desired office, preferring to give undivided attention to his business affairs and content to perform his duties to the village as a private citizen. However, he has never been remiss in the duties of citizenship, and his efforts have materially promoted the welfare and progress of Union City. An exemplary Mason, he belongs to the Lodge, Chapter and Council at Union City, and is thoroughly in sympathy with the teachings of the craft, which has its basic principles in brotherly kindness and mutual helpfulness. He also belongs to Coldwater lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Independent Order of United Workmen, and he and his wife are devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he has held office and in the work of which he has taken an interested part, co-operating in many of the church activities. In manner he is courteous and pleasant, winning friends by his genial disposition and honorable character, which commands the respect of all. Today he is not more honored on account of the enviable position which he occupies in business circles than on account of the many kindly deeds of his life, which have been quietly and unostentatiously performed.

C. D. WARNER, M. D.

Dr. C. D. Warner, of the Warner Medical Company of Coldwater, was born in Calhoun county, Michigan, December 17, 1840. His father, Elihu Warner, was a native of Connecticut, and when about six years old went to New York with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Warner, who were also natives of the Charter Oak state. After arriving at years of maturity Elihu Warner was married to Lucina Clarke, a daughter of Enoch and Anna (Hutchinson) Clarke. They became the parents of nine children, four sons and five daughters. The eldest died in early life but the others reached mature years.

Dr. Warner, the youngest of the family, was taken by his parents to Hillsdale county, Michigan, when but eighteen months old, and there his childhood and youth were passed. Having studied in the district schools he afterward attended Hillsdale College and later was a student in a commercial school of Detroit, Michigan. He put aside his text books, however, for the purpose of enlisting in the Union army, and in 1861 he became a member of Company G, Second Michigan Cavalry, with which he served as a

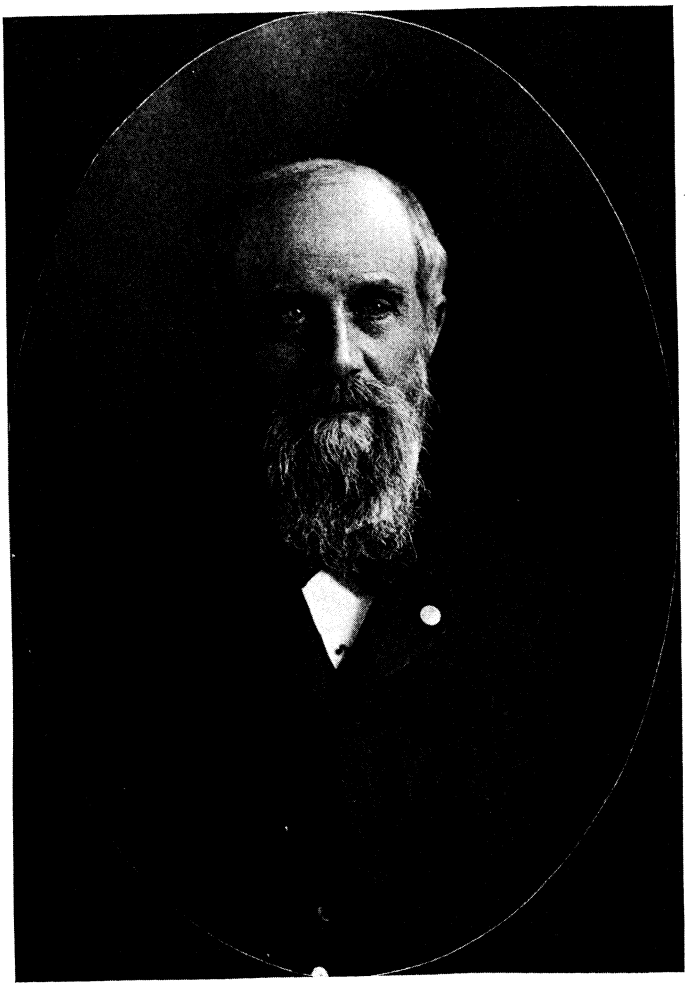
private. With a constitution unable to withstand the hardships of war, however, he was honorably discharged after a year on account of physical disability, after which he returned to Reading, Michigan. He also resumed his studies in the commercial college at Detroit, from which he was graduated, and then went into the copper mines in the northern peninsula of Michigan, working for the Pennsylvania Mining Company for about six months as superintendent of surface work. Later he engaged as contractor in the building of houses and spent about two years in that part of the state. He then located in the village of Reading, where for about ten years he was engaged in the manufacture of White Wine of Tar and of blood and liver pills. In 1889 he came to Coldwater, where he has continued in the manufacture of the same medicines and is now devoting his attention largely to the White Wine of Tar—a remedy which has become known all over the world. He also owns farms at Reading which are operated under his supervision, and has mining interests in Mexico, being a stockholder in the El Cobre mines of Sonora, Mexico. Dr. Warner was married to Miss Julia St. John, and they had a daughter and son: Donna, now the wife of B. L. Van Aken, of Coldwater; and Hiram E., who owns the old home farm at Reading, and is engaged in the sale of the Warner Company's remedies, having control of the business in the states of Indiana and Ohio. The wife and mother died, and Dr. Warner has since married Josephine M. Brown.

Dr. Warner votes with the Republican party, which he has supported since casting his presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln. His business career has been attended with success. When he began the manufacture of Warner's White Wine of Tar he walked from house to house, selling his medicines, which he carried in a grip sack. Later he was enabled to purchase a horse and buggy, and so satisfactory did his remedies prove that the business grew rapidly and has now reached extensive proportions, making Dr. Warner one of the substantial citizens of Coldwater. In manner he is genial and affable, readily making friends, and retaining the high regard of all by reason of his social disposition and genuine worth of character.

ALEXANDER McINTYRE.

Alexander McIntyre is the owner of a valuable farm of two hundred and fifty-six acres situated on section fifteen, Matteson township. A native of Canada, he was born near St. Thomas on the 1st of December, 1843. His father, William McIntyre, was a native of Scotland and was there reared. In that country he wedded Miss Agnes McColm, also a native of that country, and soon afterward they crossed the Atlantic to Canada, locating near St. Thomas, where William McIntyre followed the occupation of farming up to the time of his death, which occurred when he was about forty-five years of age. His widow still lives in Canada, making her home in Wallacetown, at the age of eighty-two years. In their family were five children, two sons and three daughters, all of whom reached adult age.

Alexander McIntyre, the eldest of the family, was reared and educated in Canada, and when seventeen years of age came to Branch county,



A. A. Reynolds

settling first at Bronson. He there turned his attention to the blacksmith's trade, which he followed for two years, after which he went to Coldwater, where he began earning his living by blacksmithing and carriage manufacturing, continuing in that business for about five years. He then engaged in business for himself in partnership with Mr. Lockard, renting a shop for the first year, and then building a shop on West Chicago street, where the Harley agricultural implement business is now located. Mr. McIntyre continued in business in Coldwater for about thirteen years. The partnership continued for three years, at the end of which time he purchased his partner's interest. He was then alone in business until about 1875, when he traded his property for a farm in Calhoun county, Michigan. There he lived for two years, when he sold out and purchased where he now resides. He has made his home in Matteson township for twenty-eight years, and his farm now comprises two hundred and fifty-six acres of land. At one time his holdings were three hundred and sixteen acres, but he has sold a part of this to his son Frank. As an agriculturist he has been very energetic and progressive, and has annually harvested good crops because of the practical care and labor which he has bestowed upon the fields.

In February, 1865, Mr. McIntyre was united in marriage to Miss Amanda Bearss, a daughter of Henry and Harriet (Darling) Bearss. The father was born in Connecticut and the mother in Albany, New York, and in their family were eight children, six daughters and two sons, Mrs. McIntyre being the fifth in order of birth. She was born in Prattsville, New York, September 22, 1846, and was brought to Michigan when about twelve years of age, since which time Branch county has been her home. Mr. and Mrs. McIntyre have but one son, Frank, who was born in Matteson township, March 16, 1880, was married to Lottie Sanderson, and is now an enterprising and leading agriculturist of Matteson township. Mr. McIntyre has always voted with the Republican party. He has been a very successful man, and starting out in life on his own account empty handed has steadily worked his way upward, proving that prosperity and an honored name can be won simultaneously, for in his business career he has gained success, and has also made an excellent reputation as a straightforward, reliable business man.

NORMAN A. REYNOLDS.

Judge Norman A. Reynolds, who for many years has wielded a wide influence in professional and political circles in Branch county, and is now practically living a retired life at his home in Coldwater, was born in Cayuga county, New York, May 28, 1843, and is a representative of one of the old colonial families that was established in Connecticut during an early epoch in the history of the new world. His paternal grandfather, Joseph Reynolds, belonged to the Fifth Regiment of the militia of Dutchess county, New York, and served in the Revolutionary war under Colonel Philip Van Cortland. He was taken captive and for some time was held as a prisoner of war on a British vessel in New York harbor. He was a son of Caleb Reynolds and a grandson of Joshua Reynolds, of Fairfield county, Connecticut. It is not

definitely known when the family was established in New York, but Joseph Reynolds, the Revolutionary hero, resided in Dutchess county, and Caleb Reynolds, father of Judge Reynolds, was born in the Empire state. The last named became a farmer by occupation and spent his entire life in New York. He married Lydia Robinson, also a native of the same state, and they had a family of eight children, whom they reared upon the home farm.

Judge Reynolds early became familiar with the experiences and labors that usually fall to the lot of a farmer's son, and following his preliminary course of study in the district schools he attended an academy for a time and during the winter of 1860-61 taught school. Prompted by a spirit of loyalty and patriotism, he laid aside his text-books and offered his services in defense of the Union which his grandfather had aided in establishing, enlisting on the 7th of September, 1861, as a member of Company A, Tenth New York Cavalry, for a term of three years, and on the expiration of that period he re-enlisted and continued with the boys in blue until the cessation of hostilities, when he was honorably discharged August 8, 1865. He served with the Army of the Potomac and his regiment was one of the most active of that branch of the service, participating in many important and hotly contested engagements. Judge Reynolds closely followed the fortunes of his regiment and rose from the ranks, becoming successively corporal, sergeant, commissary sergeant and second lieutenant. He has always maintained a deep interest in military affairs and was himself a brave and intrepid soldier. Of Butterworth Post, G. A. R., of which he was an organizer, he served for three years as commander, and in 1883 he was a lieutenant of the Light Guards, while from 1887 until 1889, inclusive, he was captain of that command.

Following his service in the Union Army, Judge Reynolds returned to the parental home in New York, but soon afterward went west, hoping that he might enjoy better business opportunities in the region west of the Mississippi. He visited Missouri and other states, but not finding conditions favorable, he again turned his face to the east. On visiting Branch county, Michigan, he decided that conditions here were more to his liking, and since March 1, 1866, he has been a resident of this county, and from 1866 to 1877 he was a resident of Quincy township. He had previously married in New York, Miss Emma E. Dofferty having become his wife, and the young couple located on a farm in Quincy township. Four years later he was called upon to mourn the death of his wife. In 1872 he married a second time, wedding Miss Emorette A. Harding.

Judge Reynolds continued his farming operations until 1876, when, on account of failing health, he sold his farm, deciding to abandon the arduous labor in connection with an agricultural life. He came to Coldwater in October, 1877, and was admitted to the bar in 1878. Immediately afterward he located for practice in Coldwater, and in the fall of the same year was made circuit court commissioner. In 1880 he was elected probate judge of Branch county, and thus served for three terms, or twelve years, at the close of which period he resumed the practice of law, enjoying a large clientage until 1903, when, at the age of sixty years, he decided to retire from professional and business life. His business relations are now largely financial, his attention

being given to the supervision of his investments. He is also a director of the Branch County Savings Bank, of which he was one of the organizers. He was appointed by Governor Bliss, in 1903, a member of the board of control of the State Public School, and reappointed by Governor Warner in 1905 for a term of six years, being the second treasurer of the board.

In fraternal, religious, social, political and business relations he has always been active, and his sound judgment, clear discernment and indefatigable energy have made his influence a potent and beneficial force along these varied lines. In politics he has been a stanch Republican since the organization of the party. He is a Master Mason, a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and president of the Branch County Fraternal Association. His interest in his adopted county and her welfare is deep and sincere and his cooperation in progressive public movements has been far-reaching and beneficial. Mrs. Reynolds, who was born in Hillsdale county, Michigan, holds a prominent place in the social and literary circles of the city and is also an active worker in the Methodist Episcopal church. For seventeen years she has been president of the Home Missionary Society of her church, of which she was an organizer. She has also been president of the Woman's Relief Corps, and is now (1905) leader of the Purple Circle Columbia Club, an association formed of eleven different literary societies.

FRANK B. REYNOLDS.

Frank B. Reynolds, only son of Judge and Mrs. Norman A. Reynolds, was born on his father's farm in Quincy township, Branch county, Michigan, on the 20th of January, 1874, and the city of Coldwater has been his home since he was three years of age. Here he grew to manhood and attended school, being graduated from the high school with the class of 1891. He afterward pursued a two-years' literary course in the University of Michigan and then entered upon the study of law in the same institution, being graduated with the class of 1895, with the degree of LL. B. He was immediately admitted to the bar, and in association with his father, then practicing law in Coldwater, he began his professional career. In the fall of 1900, he was elected probate judge on the Republican ticket, and in 1904 was re-elected, so that he is the present incumbent, and as the office had previously been filled by his father for three terms, the name of Reynolds has been associated with the probate bench for twenty years. Frank B. Reynolds had previously served for three years as city attorney of Coldwater and for two terms as circuit court commissioner. He volunteered and served in the Spanish-American war, joining the Thirty-second Michigan Volunteer Infantry, in which he was a color sergeant.

In 1896 Judge Reynolds married Miss Florence M. Hilliar, and they have two children: Adeltha A. and Frances I. He is a Master Mason and a leading member of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he is now serving as trustee. He also has been very active in the work of the Sunday-school, the Epworth League and the Young Men's Christian Association, being a member of the board of directors and vice-president of the last named for a number of years. Like his father, his is a well rounded character and

in his life proportionate attention has been given to his profession and his obligations to his fellow men, his home locality and his country. The name of Reynolds has long figured prominently in Branch county and has ever been an honored one.

JOHN P. FOX.

John P. Fox, living on section one, Sherwood township, was born in Montour county, Pennsylvania, then a part of Columbia county, on the 23rd of May, 1843. His paternal grandfather, John Fox, was also a native of the keystone state, where he spent his entire life. He was descended from German and English ancestry and the family was established in Pennsylvania at a very early day, the first representatives of the name settling near the Delaware river. The deed to their land was signed by William Penn and the farm which was thus secured is yet in possession of the Fox family. It lies in Bucks county and through successive generations the family has been represented there. Daniel M. Fox, father of John P. Fox, was born in Pennsylvania and came to Michigan in 1854, locating in Calhoun county. He was a teacher in early life and later engaged in farming, continuing in active agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred when he was in his seventy-fifth year. He resided continuously upon his farm in Calhoun county upon which he first located. He married Eliza Lichtenwalner, who was born in Northampton county, Pennsylvania, and was a daughter of Peter Lichtenwalner, also a native of that state, his ancestors having settled in Pennsylvania in 1733. Mrs. Fox was sixty-eight years of age at the time of her demise. She had become the mother of nine children, four sons and five daughters, of whom three sons and three daughters reached adult age.

John P. Fox, the sixth child and third son, was a youth of ten years at the time of his parents' removal to Michigan and he was reared in Fredonia township, Calhoun county, acquiring his education in the district schools. Throughout the period of his boyhood he assisted in the operation of the home farm and thus gained practical experience which proved of value to him when he began farming on his own account. He was married in 1868 to Miss Catherine F. Green, a daughter of Dr. Jacob S. Green, who came to Michigan in 1866 and engaged in the practice of his profession in this portion of the state. Mrs. Fox was born in Tompkins county, New York, May 3, 1843, and after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Fox remained on the old homestead farm in Calhoun county until 1882, when they settled in Sherwood township and have since resided here. They became the parents of three children: Charles, who is engaged in the clothing business at Athens, Michigan; Liza, the wife of Claud H. Whitney, of Denver, Colorado; and Lena, the wife of Clifford Darling of Girard township, Branch county. The wife and mother died January 1, 1896, and in October, 1897, Mr. Fox wedded Mrs. Mary A. Burton, the widow of Otis Burton and a daughter of Lance Simmons.

Mr. Fox is a representative agriculturist, owning and operating two hundred and fifty-six acres of well improved land on section one, Sherwood

township. He is also a director and a vice-president of the Farmers' National Bank at Union City and one of the directors of the Union City Creamery Company. In his business affairs he is enterprising, managing his interests on strictly business principles and whatever he undertakes to do he does thoroughly and well. He is strong in all the essentials that combine to make a valuable and trustworthy business man. In politics he has always been a Republican but would never accept office. He belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church at Union City and is now chairman of its board of trustees, also one of its stewards and very active in the different departments of the church work. His identification therewith has continued for thirty-five years and for about twenty years he has been a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

WILLIAM ADAMS COOMBS.

William A. Coombs was born in South Thompson, Maine, August 21, 1840, being the eldest of five children and only son of Archibald and Harriett (Kalloch) Coombs. He accompanied his parents on their removal to Laporte county, Indiana, where his youth was passed, and after mastering the branches taught in the public schools he continued his studies in the Valparaiso Normal School and afterward was engaged in teaching school for a time. Mr. Coombs entered mercantile life in connection with a general store at Rolling Prairie, Indiana, where he remained until November, 1868, when he came to Coldwater and was here engaged in merchandising, for a short time. Later he became a dealer in fruit trees and was engaged in selling nursery stock for several years. About 1877 he purchased the Crippen flouring mill, which he conducted until his death, and he also bought and operated other mills. He likewise purchased the plant of the Coldwater Gas Company, developed the business and retained a controlling interest in the same. He was instrumental in establishing the Tappen shoe factory, of which he became one of the stockholders, and thus his identification with varied business interests made him a valued factor in the industrial and commercial development of the city.

In March, 1866, Mr. Coombs was united in marriage to Miss Clara Adams Webster, a daughter of Harrison Webster, a native of New York, who settled in Branch county, Michigan, in 1867, and here followed the occupation of farming. His wife bore the maiden name of Mary E. Dickson, and was also a native of New York. Mrs. Coombs was born in Ripley, New York, and there her marriage was celebrated. She became the mother of five children: Mrs. Edith Zwisler, now deceased; Anna M., the wife of Fred W. Moore of the Coombs Milling Company of Coldwater; Susie S., the wife of Elmer J. Allen; Elizabeth, the wife of H. R. Saunders of the Coldwater National Bank; and William Adams, secretary of the Coldwater Gas Company.

William A. Coombs gave his political support to the Republican party, and was always interested in its success. He died in Coldwater June 19, 1898.

A. MUNSON ETHERIDGE.

A. Munson Etheridge, a member of the firm of Etheridge & Norton, dealers in agricultural implements in Quincy, was born in Coldwater February 27, 1844. His father, Samuel Etheridge, was a native of Adams, Massachusetts, and came to Michigan in 1836, locating in Coldwater. He was a millwright by trade and built the first flouring mill in Branch county. It became known as the old Crippen Mill. Mr. Etheridge was a man of considerable prominence and influence in the county in an early day. He came of New England ancestry and had been liberally educated. His political allegiance was given to the Democracy and he was a strong party man, doing everything in his power to promote the growth and insure the success of the principles in which he believed. About 1850 he took part in a debate that was held in Quincy and which was a memorable event in its early history. He then prophesied that a railroad would be built through Quincy on the very ground on which the schoolhouse stood. He said that the day would come when the continent would be crossed by steel rails from ocean to ocean. Although the prophecy has long since been fulfilled he showed remarkable foresight in his prediction. He belonged to the old school of gentlemen, punctiliously polite, considerate of others and deferential in manner. When the senatorial district extended to Detroit he acted as its representative in 1839-40 in the state legislature, which then held its meetings at Detroit. He was a personal friend of Governor Steven T. Mason and he and his family were often guests at the governor's home. Mr. Etheridge also held some local offices, including that of justice of the peace, in which he served for a number of years. In 1845 he removed to Quincy and engaged in farming just west of the town, where he owned a tract of land that was eventually divided by the Lake Shore Railroad. In early life he held membership in the Baptist church but at the time of his death was a communicant of the Episcopalian church. In his fraternal relations he was a Mason. He died in 1864 at the ripe old age of seventy-six years, and though several decades have since come and gone he is yet remembered by many of the older settlers as one of the prominent and influential citizens of this part of the state. He married Cynthia Maria Ingham, who was born in the town of Schuyler, Herkimer county, New York, in 1806, and died in 1886. She represented one of the old New England families of German lineage and by this marriage there were three children: Charles I., a farmer living in Quincy township; Kirk B., who is a farmer and also conducts a feed mill at Quincy; and A. Munson. Samuel Etheridge was twice married, his two wives being sisters and by the first union he had six children, but only one is now living, Mrs. Cynthia Brewer, the wife of Lorenzo D. Brewer, who is living in Coldwater in the house which she has occupied for sixty-seven years. She has reached the age of eighty-seven years and by reason of a broken hip is now an invalid.

A Munson Etheridge was a student in the public schools of Quincy and Coldwater in his boyhood days. He was reared upon his father's farm and has followed agricultural pursuits for thirty-five years, owning eighty acres



Hon Wilson M. D

of land in Quincy township. He is also engaged in the implement business in Quincy at the present time, handles buggies and wagons, and also deals quite largely in real estate, his business interests being capably conducted, so that he has a gratifying yearly income. He began dealing in implements in Coldwater in 1860 in connection with Mr. Bert and his brother, Theodore C. Etheridge, with whom he was identified in business relations for eight years. On the expiration of that period he took up his abode on his farm near Quincy, but in 1895 again entered mercantile life, and in 1897 formed a partnership in the implement business with A. L. Bowen, which continued until the fall of 1902, when he purchased his partner's interest and shortly afterward admitted H. P. Norton to a partnership under the present firm style of Etheridge & Norton.

In 1870 Mr. Etheridge was married to Miss Clara J. Newberry, a daughter of Peter M. and Hannah (Seaberry) Newberry. She was born in Quincy township on the farm now owned by Mr. Etheridge, her natal year being 1845. Her father had come to Michigan in 1836, settling first in Jonesville, where he remained for a year. He then came to Quincy township, where the family home was maintained through a long period. He had but two daughters, Mrs. Etheridge's sister becoming the wife of his brother, Kirk Etheridge.

Unto our subject and his wife have been born the following named: Alice C., at home; Warren S., who is his father's assistant in business; Mabel L., who is attending the conservatory of music of the state normal; Theodore Cleveland, at home; Willie, who died at the age of nine years; and Arthur, who died at the age of four years, both dying of diphtheria in 1884. The parents are consistent and prominent members of the Baptist church, and Mr. Etheridge has been a deacon in the church for thirty-five years. He cast his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln and has since given an unfaltering support to the Republican party. Mrs. Etheridge crossed the continent soon after the building of the first railroad in company with her father, and later Miss Alice Etheridge made the same trip to California with her grandfather Newberry. The family is a prominent one in the locality, occupying an enviable position in the social circles in which they move and Mr. Etheridge has contributed in substantial measure to the business development of the city.

WILLIAM WILSON, M. D.

Dr. William Wilson, whose life has been devoted to the welfare of his fellowmen as a practitioner of medicine and minister of the gospel, was born in the city of Dumfries, Scotland, June 20, 1848. When he was twelve years of age his mother with her two sons, William and James, came to the United States, settling at Albany, New York, where Mrs. Wilson spent her remaining days, her death there occurring in 1902, when she was about seventy-four years of age. It was in that state that Dr. Wilson was reared, early entering business life there as an apprentice to the carpenter's trade. His school privileges were very limited, but he was fond of books and devoted his evening hours to reading and study, thus gaining a fair education

to which observation, experience and investigation have added as the years have gone by. When twenty-two years of age he professed his faith in Christ and joined the Plymouth Brethren, after which he devoted much of his time for ten years to preaching the gospel. In the meantime he also followed carpentering and other occupations in order to gain a livelihood, but throughout the years that have since come and gone he never ceased to continue his labors in the ministry and his influence has ever been a potent factor on the side of right, justice and truth. In 1881 he took up the study of medicine under the direction of the late George L. Whitford, M. D., at Coldwater, having removed to this city in 1878. Later he became a student in Bennett Medical College of Chicago, from which he was graduated in 1884. He then located in East Saginaw, Michigan, where he remained for a year, after which he returned to Coldwater, where he has since followed the profession of medical practice and has also engaged in teaching. He has been successful in his ministrations for the physical needs of mankind and he has kept in touch with the progress of his profession through membership in the Branch County Medical Society and the Tri-State Medical Society.

Dr. Wilson was married in 1879 to Miss Julia A. Whitford, a daughter of Dr. George L. Whitford, and they have two sons—Harry G. and James G., both traveling salesmen. The life work of Dr. Wilson has been actuated by a broad, humanitarian spirit and deep interest in his fellowmen that prompts his best efforts for the amelioration of all the conditions which work hardships to others. Added to his efforts for the alleviation of suffering and diseases he brings the consolation of the gospel faith and in his life shows forth the true spirit of Him who came not to be ministered unto but to minister.

HON. WILLIAM B. BUSHNELL.

William B. Bushnell, a furniture dealer of Bronson, Michigan, was born on his father's farm in Noble township, six miles south of Bronson, February 21, 1849, son of Ephraim B. Bushnell. The latter, a native of Ohio, moved to Michigan in 1836, accompanied by his father, Samuel Bushnell, who was born in Vermont and who at an early day had come as far west as Ohio. Samuel Bushnell spent the rest of his life in Michigan, and died at the home of his son in Branch county.

Like other farmer boys, William B. Bushnell worked on a farm in summer and during the winter months attended the country school near his home. Also for a short time he was a student at Orland Academy in Indiana. At the age of twenty, ambitious to see something of the world, he went west, visiting Iowa, Nebraska, Idaho, Montana and California, where he spent some time engaged in mining and various other occupations. Returning to Michigan in 1876, he settled down to farming in Branch county and gave his attention to agricultural pursuits here until January, 1902, when he became associated with E. M. Turner in a general furniture and undertaking business in Bronson. He still owns a farm of ninety acres, located two and a half miles west of Bronson.

Mr. Bushnell married, in 1880, Miss Maria Taggart, daughter of David Taggart, of Branch county, and they have four children, namely: Leland D., a graduate of Lansing Agricultural College with the class of June, 1905; Clyde E., a student in that college; Elwood D., a graduate of the Bronson high school in 1904, is now teaching school; and Clesson, at home.

Mr. Bushnell has always been a staunch Republican. For three years he served Bronson township as supervisor, being the only Republican elected to that office during a period of thirty years. In 1891 he was elected a representative to the Michigan general assembly for a term of two years, and filled the position with credit to himself and his constituents. He is a member of Mystic lodge, A. F. & A. M., of Bronson.

L. M. BOWERS.

From an early period in the development of Branch county L. M. Bowers has resided within its borders, and has been an interested witness of its development and of changes that have been wrought as agricultural and commercial progress have elevated the county to a par with the older districts of the east. He lives on section fourteen, Batavia township, where he has a good farm of eighty-eight acres, upon which he took up his abode thirty-two years ago, his birth occurring in Penfield, Monroe county, New York, on the 5th of December, 1840. His father, John Bowers, was a native of Essex county, New Jersey, born in the town of Roxbury, on the 8th of July, 1816, and is now living in his ninetieth year, making his home with his son, L. M. Bowers of this review. He is still a hale and hearty old man, respected and honored by young and old, rich and poor. He came to Branch county in 1853, locating in Batavia township and has been a life-long farmer. He was a son of John Bowers, a native of Vermont—a fact which indicates that the family was established in the new world at an early day, while this country still belonged to Great Britain. John Bowers was united in marriage to Miss Esther Ann Moore, whose birth occurred in Monroe county, New York, and who passed away when about sixty-five years of age. In their family were two children, but the daughter died in childhood.

L. M. Bowers, the only son, was a youth of twelve years when he came with his parents to Michigan, and his education, which was begun in the east, was continued in the district schools of Branch county and in the city of Coldwater. He remained at home through the period of his youth and for one year was engaged in the jewelry business in Coldwater, but thirty-two years ago located on his present farm. For a year and a half he conducted a general store at Klinger's Lake and established the postoffice there, acting as postmaster during the period of his residence there. He also established the first rural route that went out of Coldwater.

On the 13th of February, 1863, Mr. Bowers was united in marriage to Miss Lovina Grove, a daughter of Archibald and Jane (Pitcher) Grove, who came to Branch county in 1833. On the occasion of the mother's death the following notice appeared in a local paper:

"Mrs. Jane Grove, or better known as Grandma Grove, whose serious illness has from time to time been mentioned in our items, departed this

life last Monday evening. Mrs. Grove has always lived a peaceful quiet home life. Being left a widow in early life with a large family of little children, she worked hard to keep her family together, and although sorely tried with the hardships of an early pioneer life she still pressed nobly on and lived to see her children all grown up to manhood and womanhood with beautiful homes of their own. As she had always lived a quiet life she wished her burial to be. Her own daughters cared for her in her last sickness and in death her sons laid her body away to rest. Elder Lowry, of Coldwater, talked in his quiet and expressive way from a text of her own selection and Miss Elizabeth Grove, who is a relative of the family, sang in her sweet voice two solos. It can be truly said with Mr. Lowry that she had lived a long life and fought a good fight."

Mrs. Bowers was born in Batavia township May 15, 1843, and was one of a family of ten children, being the fifth in order of birth. Her girlhood was spent in Batavia township and the public schools of the neighborhood afforded her her educational privileges. In fact she has lived in this township throughout her entire life and has a very wide acquaintance. By her marriage she has become the mother of one daughter, Mary E., now the wife of Mortimer Olds, a resident of Batavia township.

Mr. Bowers is the owner of a farm of ninety acres and has always carried on general agricultural pursuits. His well tilled fields indicate his careful supervision of his place, which is thoroughly equipped with modern improvements and presents an attractive appearance. He has been identified with the Democratic and Greenback parties and favors the free coinage of silver at the ratio of sixteen to one. He has served as township clerk of Batavia township for about two years. He is a member of the Grange, and at one time was connected with the Ancient Order of United Workmen. For fifty-three years a resident of Branch county, he has been an interested witness of almost its entire development, and has been particularly helpful along the line of agricultural progress, co-operating largely in the Grange movement. He was master of the local Grange for about ten years, and has been a member of the county, state and national Grange, recognized as one of its prominent representatives. He has also been president and director of the Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Branch county. An investigation into his life record will disclose no startling chapters, but will show that in the faithful performance of the duties of this work-a-day world he has won a fair measure of prosperity and at the same time has lived so as to gain the respect and trust of those with whom he has been associated.

J. MOREHOUSE BLACKMAN, M. D.

Dr. J. Morehouse Blackman, among the young practitioners of medicine and surgery in Branch county, with a well equipped office in Quincy, where he has gained a creditable and gratifying patronage, was born at White Pigeon, Michigan, in 1873, and when but three years of age was brought to Quincy by his parents, in 1876. He is a son of Edson Blackman, represented on another page of this work. He acquired his early education in the public schools of Quincy, and subsequently became a student in Hills-

dale College, which he attended in the years 1895-6. He then began preparation for his profession by reading medicine under the direction of his father, and in 1896 was enrolled as a student in the Eclectic Medical College, at Cincinnati, where he remained for a year. His views concerning practical principles then changed to some extent and he became a student in the Grand Rapids Medical College, in 1897, and was graduated therefrom in the following year. The succeeding year was spent in practice in Quincy, after which he pursued a year's course in the Detroit Homeopathic College, being a graduate of that institution of the class of 1900. He has thoroughly investigated all sides of medical practice and in his work he makes wise choice of what he believes will prove the most helpful in checking the ravages of disease and restoring health. In 1900 he returned to Quincy, where he has since remained, having an office with his father. He has been successful from the start and now has a business which many an older practitioner might well envy.

In 1901 Dr. Blackman was married to Miss Carrie Lusk, a daughter of Alfred and Emily Lusk. She was born in Coldwater, in 1877, and is an only child. The family comes of German lineage. Dr. Blackman is a member of the Knights of Pythias fraternity and also has membership relations with the Odd Fellows, Maccabees and Mystic Workers, and is medical examiner for these organizations and for the Equitable Life Insurance Company.

ROBERT WATSON.

Robert Watson, one of the early settlers of Coldwater, was born in Lincolnshire, England, December 12, 1840, and with his parents came to America in 1850, the family home being established in Pontiac. He afterward went to Flint, Michigan, and in 1860 arrived in Coldwater. He was then a young man of twenty years, possessing energy, determination and laudable ambition. He here established a meat market and for forty-two years has continued in the same line of business in this city, being one of its most reliable and representative business men. He is always straightforward and honorable in every business transaction and had a large patronage, many of his customers having been with him for years. This business he sold in 1903.

In 1866 Mr. Watson was united in marriage to Miss Olive Smith, a daughter of General Davis Smith, who won his title through service in the Black Hawk war. Mrs. Watson was born in Tecumseh, Michigan, and came to Branch county in 1851. On the 1st of April, 1869, Mr. Watson took up his abode on his present farm, which comprises one hundred and five acres of land all within the city limits. He has a fine residence here, which he erected and he is now a well-to-do citizen, his prosperity having been gained entirely through his own efforts. Three children came to bless the home, but one has passed away. The daughter, Laura S., is yet with her parents. The son, Robert Howard, married Miss Blanche Dunham of Coldwater and now follows farming in Girard township, this county. They have one son, Robert. The younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Watson,

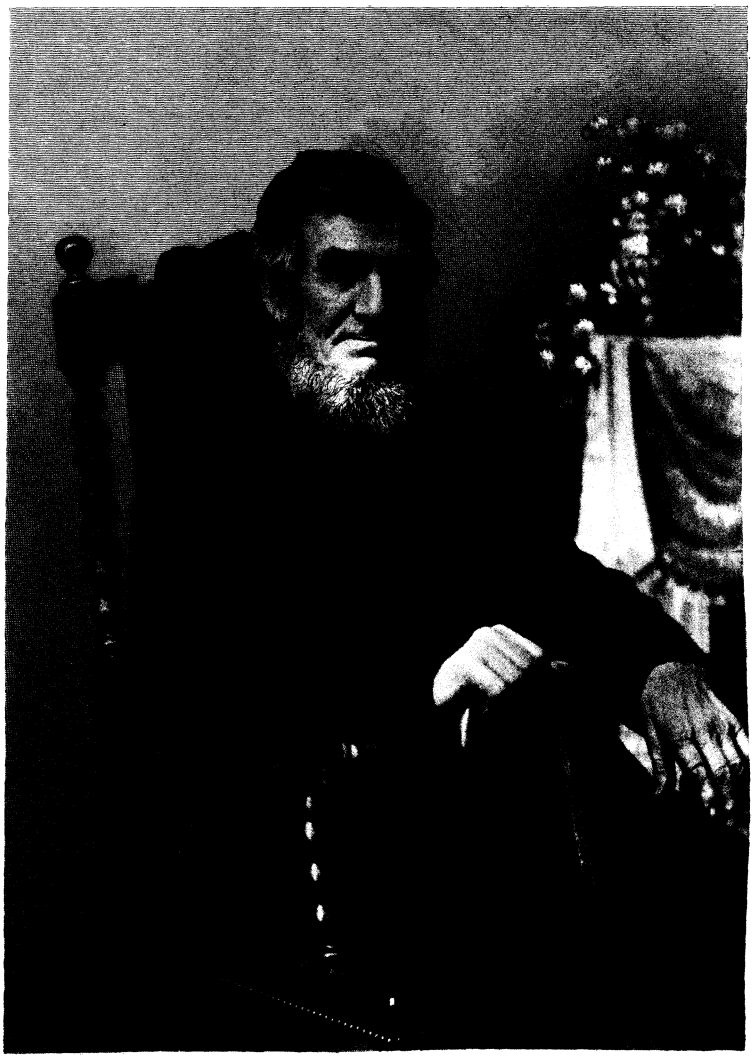
Lizzie Emaline, became the wife of W. S. Everts and died, leaving a daughter, Helen L.

Mr. Watson has been a very busy man and in addition to conducting the meat market in Coldwater he has engaged largely in buying, shipping and selling stock. He has persevered and his salient traits of character have been such as have insured him business success. He has made his home in Coldwater for forty-five years and is closely identified with its interests. In politics a Democrat, he has been chosen by popular vote to the office of alderman for eight years and has taken an active part in everything relating to the general welfare. The family are connected with the Episcopal church and are well known in Branch county. For more than a half century Mr. Watson has lived in this state and for forty-five years in the county, and his entire life history has been as an open book which all may read.

JOHN SEBRING.

John Sebring, interested in general farming on section twenty-seven, Quincy township, was born in Wayne county, New York, April 10, 1824, and in the paternal line comes of Dutch ancestry. The family was represented in the Revolutionary war and John Sebring, Sr., the father of our subject, was a soldier of the war of 1812, being on Lake Champlain when peace was declared. He followed the occupation of farming in New York and was one of the native sons of the state, his birth having occurred in Argyle about thirty miles from the city of Troy. He continued to make his home in the Empire state until his death, which occurred in 1855. His early political allegiance was given to the Whig party and upon its dissolution he joined the ranks of the Republican party. His religious faith was that of the Methodist Protestant church. In early manhood he wedded Nancy Durgee, a native of Vermont, and they were the parents of seven children: Moses, Eunice and Jenette, all deceased; Sarah, who is the widow of John L. Seccomb, who was a millwright of Auburn, New York; John, of this review; and Permelia and Catherine, who have also passed away. After losing his first wife Mr. Sebring married Miss Reynolds, who was born in New York and died about 1865, at the age of thirty years. She came of New York ancestry and was the mother of seven children: Nancy and William Henry, both deceased; Harrison G., a stock dealer of Teconsha, who in 1861 enlisted for service in the Union army, with which he remained for four years; Sylvester, Andrew and Jacob, all deceased; and Mary M., the wife of C. L. Emmons, a farmer of Muskegon county, Michigan, who was formerly engaged in the manufacture of brick and tile.

John Sebring, whose name introduces this review, was reared upon a farm and attended school in Wayne county, New York. He afterward began work as a farm hand and later embarked in business on his own account in the conduct of a saw mill in New York. He came to Michigan on the 19th of November, 1853, locating in the village of Quincy, and erected a saw mill on the ground now occupied by the power house. He was associated in this enterprise with Martin Hawley and for five years conducted the mill, after which he went to northern Michigan, where he engaged in



John Sebring

lumbering in the pine woods for five years. In the meantime he had purchased a farm in Quincy township, upon which he now resides, having here fifty-one acres of good land. Leaving the pineries he returned to this place and has since made it his home. He also owns another eighty acres on the same section and forty acres on section twenty-two, together with six acres within the corporation limits of Quincy laid out in town lots. He likewise holds stock in the Quincy State Bank.

In 1852 Mr. Sebring was married to Miss Mary A. Petteys, who was born in Wayne county, New York, in 1825, and is a daughter of Benjamin and Deborah (Barney) Petteys, the former a farmer by occupation. The mother died in the Empire state, after which the father came to Michigan and passed away at the home of Mr. Sebring. In his family were four children: Mary; John and Moses, both deceased; and William, who is engaged in gardening in the state of Washington. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Sebring have been born six children: George D., of Quincy; Phurnia, who is acting as housekeeper for her father; Eugene, living in Quincy township; Deborah J., the widow of Enos Allen, who was a farmer of Burroak, where Mrs. Allen still makes her home, giving her personal supervision to the farm; William, who died when four years of age; and John, who died when six months old. Mrs. Sebring died May 13, 1900, and as she was held in high esteem by her many friends her loss was deeply regretted. The following obituary was written at her death:

"Quincy loses another pioneer by the death of Mrs. John Sebring, which occurred Sunday, May 13, at her home south of town, after an illness of a few days, the immediate cause being Bright's disease.

"Mrs. Sebring, whose maiden name was Mary A. Petteys, was born at Galen, New York, December 27, 1825. July 8, 1852, she was united in marriage to John Sebring, coming to Quincy the following year, living in the village for a number of years and afterwards moving to their beautiful farm south of town. To this union six children were born, four of whom are living, George and Phurnia of this place; Mrs. Nettie Allen of Burr Oak, and Eugene of Spencer, Nebraska, all of whom were present at the funeral except the latter, who, with the aged husband and Bert Dolph, a motherless nephew, whom she had tenderly cared for since infancy, are left to mourn the loss of a devoted wife, an affectionate mother, and a true friend. Funeral services were held at the home conducted by Rev. F. M. Taylor, Methodist Episcopal pastor, and interment made at Lakeview cemetery."

Mr. Sebring gives his political support to the Republican party but has had no aspiration for office and when elected supervisor did not qualify. He has been a member of the Michigan State Detective Association. He has led a very active life and his excellent business ability and capacity for earnest and persistent labor have enabled him to accumulate a considerable competency. He has now passed the eighty-first milestone on life's journey and is in possession of property which makes him one of the substantial residents of his community and enables him to enjoy the comforts and many of the luxuries which go to make life worth living.

FREDERICK STALEY.

The gentleman named above is a fine representative of the noble men of the middle west who, at the outbreak of the Civil war, responded promptly to their country's call and gave up years of their young manhood to the defense of their nation, and then, their work in this line accomplished, returned to their former peaceful avocations and assisted in the development and growth of a new country. Here in the years since the war they have reared their families and provided for them comfortable homes, at the same time performing their duties as private citizens truly and well.

Frederick Staley is of good old German descent, his father and mother, Frederick and Mary Staley, being natives of Germany, where they grew to maturity and were married. Soon after marriage they were attracted by the evident advantages of America for home-making and they turned their faces in this direction, coming to the United States in the early thirties. Making their way westward, they located first in Stark county, Ohio, where six children were born to them, three of whom died in infancy. The others, who grew to maturity, were as follows, all of them now being alive: Barbara Hanley and Elizabeth Schilling are still residents of Crawford county, Ohio, while Frederick Staley, the youngest, is the subject of this review.

Their parents did not live long to enjoy the benefits and privileges of the land of their adoption. Removing from Stark county to Crawford county, Ohio, the father died in 1850, while the mother passed away in 1854. Both were industrious and esteemed people while Mrs. Staley was also a member of the German Lutheran church. Incidents in the life of Frederick Staley, Sr., and his son, show the primitive conditions existing in Ohio during the first years of their residence there. It is related of the father that he was the first man to bring a grain cradle into Crawford county and to use it there, where settlers had always previously used a sickle in harvesting grain; and that in one instance at least the owner of a wheat field refused to let the cradle be used therein for fear of spoiling the wheat. Our subject also relates that in his boyhood and early manhood he always used a sickle in harvesting grain, even the grain cradle being then unknown.

Our subject was only fourteen years old when he was by the death of his parents thrown upon his own resources, but he met the new conditions in a brave and sturdy manner, working on farms for others and after the marriage of his eldest sister calling that place his home. This was his busy, though rather uneventful life until he became of age, soon after which the war of the rebellion opened. Without waiting to be drafted he embraced the very first opportunity for enlistment, this occurring in Crawford county, Ohio, September 1, 1862, and he was at once made a corporal in Company H of the One Hundred and Twenty-third Ohio Infantry. His regiment was in Virginia all through the war and its members had a checkered career, suffering hardships and privations and seeing much active service. At Winchester, June 15, 1863, the regiment was captured and Mr. Staley was a prisoner for several months in Libby and Belle Island. Being

parolled, he made his way back home for a brief furlough before rejoining his regiment in the field. In September, 1864, he was promoted to sergeant, holding this position until the close of the war. Mr. Staley received but one slight wound, but he passed through many harrowing experiences, being in all but one of the fifty-one engagements of his regiment and enduring many long marches without food or drink. The One Hundred and Twenty-third Ohio was captured again only a few days previous to Lee's surrender and its last military duty was guarding the remains of the lamented Lincoln at the state house at Columbus, Ohio.

Receiving his discharge in June, 1865, Mr. Staley returned to his home county of Crawford. Here previous to the war he had won the affections of Sarah Jameson, and both remaining true to their vows all through the long war they were married a few months after his return, this event occurring October 19, 1865. Sarah Jameson was born in Crawford county, Ohio, March 13, 1837. Her father was John Jameson, born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, June 10, 1813, while her mother was Leah Dickson, a native of Indiana county, Pennsylvania, where she was born July 6, 1809. Her paternal grandparents were William Jameson, a Scotchman, and Mary Hutchison, of Holland descent; while her maternal grandparents were Andrew Dickson and Sarah Frazee, they being of English-Irish descent. These grandparents on both sides were residents of Pennsylvania and they went westward into Crawford county, Ohio, in a very early day.

Mrs. Staley's parents, John and Leah Jameson, were the parents of ten children, four of whom, Mary, Ellen, Leah and John, died in infancy, the others being as follows: Flora Hanley died in California township; Sarah Staley is the wife of our subject; William died in Ohio; Andrew is still living in Ohio; Phoebe is a resident here; Martha Stewart lives in this county. The father and mother, who led long and useful lives, came to Michigan in later years, the former dying here in 1870 at the age of sixty-three years, and his wife passing away in 1893.

Frederick and Sarah Staley came to Michigan the year following their marriage and in December, 1866, settled in California township, Branch county, on a farm which had been previously purchased on section eleven, where they set to work to make for themselves a home. The place was uncleared and unimproved, but each year witnessed progress, Mr. Staley clearing the land himself, always finding in his life companion a willing helpmeet. Seven children came to them, three of whom died in infancy, the others growing up. To the credit of Mr. and Mrs. Staley be it said that their children were given every possible advantage in the way of education, advantages which the young people appreciated, for they applied themselves diligently and showed great facility and aptitude. Not content with common school educations, they pushed farther after useful knowledge, and that they have fully met the hopes and expectations of their parents is shown by the following: John, the eldest son, graduated at De Pauw University and was a teacher for a number of years at Lexington and Liberty, Missouri, and is now living at Beloit, Kansas, where he is a successful land agent. Mary, the only daughter, attended the Normal College at Angola,

Indiana, and afterward was a school teacher for ten years. She was also an instructor and missionary at the Indian Mission in Oklahoma for two years, and afterward married William Hay. They live in Kansas and have two daughters, Sarah and Martha. Wilbert, another son, supplemented his common school education with courses of study at Angola, Indiana, and New Concord, Ohio, and for three years has been taking a course at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Chicago, where he will graduate in 1907. His wife was Nettie Adams and they have one son, Herman. Alva, the youngest son, graduated at Angola, Indiana, after which he pursued a post-graduate course at Lincoln University, Lincoln, Nebraska. Since then he has been a highly successful educator in the west, being at present superintendent of schools at Friend, Nebraska. He married Helen Browne and they live at Friend, Nebraska.

Thus it will be seen that Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Staley have done their whole duty and even more by their children. Theirs have been long and useful lives, filled with good works, and they are now living in a comfortable home at Ray, Indiana, whither they removed in 1902, although still retaining ownership of their farm of eighty acres in California township. Here they are passing their declining years, in comfortable circumstances, and with the satisfaction of knowing that their children are filling positions of honor and usefulness. Mr. Staley was for many years assessor in his school district and both he and Mrs. Staley are earnest Christians and consistent members of the Reformed Presbyterian church. Both possess the high regard and esteem of very many friends in the community where so many years of their lives have been passed.

JS. MERRILL.

The farming interests of Ovid township are well represented by Js. Merrill, who is living on section twenty-five. This farm was the place of his birth, which occurred on the 3d of June, 1861, his parents being Joseph Staple and Louesia Jane Hibner Merrill. The father was a native of Maine, born July 22, 1823, and was reared in New England to the age of fourteen years, when he left the Pine Tree state and went with his parents to Fulton county, Ohio, where they settled upon a farm. In that locality Mr. Merrill was largely educated and there he began teaching school when eighteen years of age, successfully following that profession until he attained his majority. He gave his earnings to the family up to that time and when twenty-one years of age with a small bundle of clothing he started out in life on his own account. He remained in Ohio for about three years and during that period learned the trade of blacksmithing. He was also married at that time and on leaving Ohio he came to Branch county, Michigan, settling in Ovid township. Here he abandoned his trade and gave his attention to general agricultural pursuits, locating upon what is now known as the Merrill homestead in 1845. He bought the southwest quarter of section twenty-five, Ovid township, second-hand from the government when it was all raw land, but he cleared and cultivated the place until 1849, when attracted by the discovery of gold in California he made his way to the Pacific coast,

traveling eastward by rail to New York, thence sailing to Panama, after which he crossed the isthmus and proceeded up the Pacific coast to San Francisco. He remained in California for two years, meeting with a fair measure of success, and then returned to Branch county with something over two thousand dollars that he had earned in California. About that time his wife became ill with consumption and died later, and the expenses attendant upon her illness consumed much of the money which Mr. Merrill had made on his trip to the west. Undaunted, however, he started again on his business career, living on the farm for two years. Later he was married and three years afterward his second wife passed away. He then remained single for two years, when he was again married and the last union was blessed with two children, of whom Js. Merrill was the elder. The other died in infancy. In his early years the father was a Whig and he cast his ballot for the first candidate of the Republican party, of which he remained a steadfast champion up to the time of his demise. He was averse to holding public office, however, and stoutly refused to do so although his friends solicited him to accept political preferment. He, however, took an active part in electing capable men and his co-operation could ever be counted upon to support any measure or plan that was formulated to advance the general welfare. He died October 17, 1879, on the old homestead farm, at the age of fifty-six years, two months and twenty-seven days, and that he had led a very busy and useful life is indicated by the fact that he left an estate valued at more than fifteen thousand dollars, which was divided equally among his children and his widow.

Js. Merrill was eighteen years of age at the time of his father's demise and then started out in life for himself, since which time he has marked out his own course and has won success that he is enjoying. His early education was acquired in the district schools of Ovid township and he attended the teachers' institutes with the intention of becoming a teacher, and also had begun the study of law, but his father's death caused him to change his plans and he has continued at the work of farming, with which he has been familiar from his early youth. This business he has made his life work and he is now the owner of a valuable and well improved property, having one hundred acres of land under a high state of cultivation.

Mr. Merrill was married at the age of twenty-three years to Miss Elizabeth Knapp, of Kalamazoo county, Michigan, who was born in 1868, a daughter of Martin Knapp, also a farmer of that county, where Mrs. Merrill was reared. There is but one child of this union, Jessie, who was born October 22, 1887, and has been reared on the old homestead farm. Mr. Merrill votes the Republican party and earnestly desires its success, believing that it contains the best elements of good government. He belongs to Greenleaf lodge No. 349, F. & A. M., of Kinderhook, and is in hearty sympathy with the teachings and tenets of the craft, while in public affairs he manifests a strong and tangible interest in progressive measures that makes him a valued and representative citizen of his native county. The Merrill family has kept a direct lineage of their birth line, tracing far back from the colonial days of the United States of America, when there were

only three brothers at that time residents and natives of England. When they came over to this country one of them settled in what is now called the New England states, one in the state now called Georgia, and the other went to what is now California, and they still to this day accept the claim of blood line to all that spell the family name Merrill.

FRANK J. WATSON.

Frank J. Watson, living in Coldwater township, Branch county, is a native of the Empire state, his birth having occurred in Orleans county, on the 7th of October, 1864. His father was William Watson, a native of England, born January 2, 1837, at Norfolk, England, and came alone to America when a young man of nineteen years. He landed at New York a perfect stranger with only twenty-five cents in his pocket but he possessed brave purpose and indefatigable energy and with these as a foundation for future success he entered upon life in the new world. In early manhood he wedded Miss Mary Amos, born September 5, 1845, at Hasbro, England, who came with her parents to America when but six years of age, the family home being established near Medina, New York. Mr. and Mrs. Watson were married in the Empire state, and four children were born unto them there, all of whom are now living, namely: William R., a resident of Burr Oak, Michigan; Frank J., of this review; Mrs. Eva E. Tyler, of Nottawa, this state; and George E., who is also living at Burr Oak. The father followed the occupation of farming in New York until thirty-eight years ago, when he came to Michigan and has since lived in Burr Oak township, St. Joseph county, where he still makes his home, owning and operating there a farm of one hundred and forty acres. His father was all his life an overseer of a large landed estate in England.

Frank J. Watson was a young lad when brought by his parents to this state and on his father's farm he was reared, being trained to habits of industry, economy and enterprise. The public schools afforded him his educational privileges and he became familiar with all the duties and labors that constitute the life-work of an agriculturist. As a companion and helpmate for life's journey he chose Miss Mary M. Pyle, to whom he was married in Bronson, Michigan, on the 8th of May, 1884. She was born in Niagara county, New York, March 9, 1862, and was a daughter of Hiram A. Pyle, who was born in Pekin, New York, November 9, 1836, and in early life removed to Lewiston, New York, where he married Martha Bordner, born in Williamsville, Erie county, New York, April 9, 1844. They came to Michigan in 1875 and located at Burr Oak, St. Joseph county, where they still reside, the father being engaged in the blacksmith business there. They had three children, all of whom are living: Mrs. Watson, of this review; Mrs. D. P. Plant, of Burr Oak; and Mina B. Pyle, who is a most successful music teacher of Burr Oak. She is a graduate in music of Albion College, Michigan, in class of 1894, a student in the Sherwood Piano School and studied with the celebrated William H. Sherwood.

For a year after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Watson resided in Burr



W. A. Mansfield

Oak, and then came to Branch county, spending the succeeding fourteen years on different farms in Bronson township. They also lived for a year and a half in Quincy township, and then came to Coldwater township, where they have since made their home. Mr. Watson now owns a farm of one hundred and fifty acres just north of the city of Coldwater, on which he has resided since March, 1905. He likewise owns seventy acres east of the city. He has a comfortable home and there are other good buildings upon his farm, while the land is fertile and productive, responding readily to the cultivation which he puts upon it. His entire life has been devoted to agricultural pursuits and his broad experience and enterprise have won him the success which he now enjoys. He is considered one of the intelligent and enterprising young farmers of this section and he makes a specialty of sheep raising, his sheep being of the Rambouillet breed. He is the owner of a very fine flock and he is a member of the American Rambouillet Sheep Breeders' Association.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Watson have been born three children: Edna, born October 12, 1894; Ildafontz, October 24, 1896; and Mina Beatrice, July 6, 1904. Edna is in the fifth grade in the Lincoln school in Coldwater, and is a lover of mathematics and music. Ildafontz is in the same school, in the third grade. Mina Beatrice is the youngest and the joy of the home circle. Mrs. Watson is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. In his political views Mr. Watson is an earnest Republican and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day and voted first for Harrison. Moreover he gives helpful support to many measures for the general good and is classed with the valued as well as prosperous citizens of his community.

MARC A. MERRIFIELD.

In this enlightened age when men of industry and enterprise are constantly pushing their way to the front those who have gained success may properly claim recognition and especially in professional life where advancement depends upon individual merit. Mr. Merrifield, prominent as an attorney of Union City, was born in Teconsha township, Calhoun county, Michigan, March 29, 1840. His father, Lewis Merrifield, came to this state in 1833 as one of the pioneer settlers of what is now Hodunk, Branch county. He accompanied Abraham Aldridge and was at that time eighteen years of age. He found in this part of the state a wild, unsettled district, the forests being uncut and the streams unbridged, while much of the land was still in possession of the government. He was married in Calhoun county and was there engaged in the milling business for many years, thus becoming an active factor in industrial life in his part of the state. He married Charlotte Hayden, who was a native of New York, and removed to Michigan, in 1835, in company with her parents. Her father, Alpheus Hayden, was a pioneer settler of Calhoun county and thus in the paternal and maternal lines Marc A. Merrifield is descended from ancestry actively connected with the substantial improvement of his native state during the epoch of its early development. His father died in his eighty-seventh year, while the mother was eighty-five years of age at the time

of her death. They were the parents of four children, of whom three are now living.

Marc A. Merrifield, the eldest of the family, was reared in Calhoun county and pursued his early education in a select school. He afterward attended Hillsdale College, where he was pursuing his studies at the time of the outbreak of the Civil war. He had watched with interest the progress of events in the south and all the patriotism of his nature was aroused by the firing on of Fort Sumter. He resolved to strike a blow in defense of the Union and on the 3d of June, 1861, joined the boys in blue of Company E, Fourth Michigan Infantry, as a private. He served for two years and was then honorably discharged on account of disability.

Following his return home Mr. Merrifield resumed his studies and preparing for the bar, was graduated from the law department of the Michigan State University, at Ann Arbor, with the class of 1867. He then came to Union City in the employ of the Michigan Air Line Railroad in 1868, remaining with the company as its attorney until the transfer of the road to the Michigan Central Railroad Company. He continued with the latter corporation for a short time. He has been a resident of Union City for thirty-seven years and has continuously practiced at the bar of Branch county, being connected with much important litigation in his district. He stands to-day as one of the leading criminal lawyers of the county, strong in argument, logical in his deductions, clear in his reasoning and presenting his case with a force that never fails to impress court and jury and seldom fails to gain the verdict desired. He has been retained as the defense in a number of noted criminal cases and his power as an attorney is widely recognized by the profession and the general public.

Not alone to this line, however, has Mr. Merrifield become recognized as a citizen of value in Branch county, for in many other ways his labors have been far-reaching and effective in promoting general progress. He is a stanch Republican and has taken an active interest in the work of the party, but is without political aspiration for himself. He, however, consented to accept the candidacy for the mayoralty and was elected and was also city attorney for thirty years. In the Grand Army of the Republic he has a wide acquaintance throughout the state and has held various offices in the local post and the state department. He is likewise a member of the Masonic fraternity and of the Independent Order of United Workmen and in his life exemplifies the beneficent spirit upon which those organizations are based. On the 30th of May, 1884, he was called upon to deliver the memorial address at Hillsdale in behalf of the college, in which many years before he had been a student and at that time the honorary degree of Master of Science was conferred upon him.

Mr. Merrifield has been married twice. In 1872 he was joined in wedlock to Miss Celia Clark and they had two children: Don C., who is now a prominent actor of the city of New York; and Fannie C., the wife of John Cohen, a business man of Chicago. The mother died in 1877, and Mr. Merrifield has since married Hattie E. Hayner, by whom he also had two children, of whom one died at the age of a year. The surviving daughter, Zella, is a

graduate of the Ypsilanti Normal School and is now engaged in teaching in the public schools of Union City. She also taught for one year in Holland, Michigan, and has become widely recognized for her capability in this direction. Mr. Merrifield is the owner of considerable valuable realty in Union City and is also a stockholder in some of its institutions. He has contributed in substantial measure to public progress and improvement and his co-operation can always be counted upon to further every movement that has its base in the growth and development of Union City. He favored the establishment of the various factories of the town which have contributed so largely to its commercial prosperity and he has even sacrificed his own interests for the general improvement. He ranks high in the regard of his fellow townsmen and professionally and socially his position is one of prominence.

THERON ELTING.

The Empire state has furnished a large percentage of citizens to Branch county—men who have been active and influential in the work of public improvement and progress here. To this class belongs Theron Elting, who was born in Ulster county, New York, May 7, 1849, and is now devoting his energies to agricultural pursuits in Girard township. His father, Jehu Elting, was a native of Lloyd, Ulster county, New York, born July 19, 1819, and his early life was passed in Ulster and neighboring counties. In 1839 he came to Michigan but after suffering for a year with ague he returned to New York. There he was married in Ulster county in November, 1845, to Miss Rachel Palmitier, whose birth occurred in Lloyd in 1818. Both the Elting and Palmitier families have been residents of the Empire state for several generations. When changes had been wrought in Branch county so that residence here was more desirable Jehu Elting returned to Michigan in June, 1859. He located first, however, in Washtenaw county, where he remained one summer and then came to Girard township, Branch county, where he afterward made his home. He first bought eighty acres of land on section five and as his financial resources increased extended the boundaries of his property until prior to his death he owned two hundred and ten acres of valuable and productive land. His political allegiance was given to the Democracy and he advocated the principles promulgated by Jefferson. Father Elting was an ardent supporter of the Greenback question and an admirer of Peter Cooper, and our subject cast his first presidential vote for Peter Cooper, the great exponent of Greenbackism. He had been prominent in community affairs in New York and while living in that state had served as justice of the peace there for seventeen years. His death occurred in Girard township, February 5, 1897, while his wife passed away in the same locality on the 22nd of March, 1872. They had six children, namely: Two who died in infancy in Ulster county, New York; Theron, of this review; Frank, who is living in Tekonsha, Michigan, where he is engaged in the postal service; Rachel, who makes her home with her brother Theron; and Hattie, who died in Girard township in 1889.

Theron Elting was a youth of about ten years when his father returned to Michigan and with the exception of the brief period spent in Wash-

tenaw county has since been a resident of Branch county and has long been numbered among Girard township's successful and intelligent farmers. He is indebted to the public school system for the educational privileges he enjoyed, while under his father's direction he received ample training in the work of the farm. His entire life has been given to agricultural pursuits and he now owns one hundred and sixty acres of land where he resides, this tract including the old family homestead. The soil is rich and alluvial and the productive fields annually yield good harvests, so that he is continually adding to his income through the sale of his crops. Fraternally he is a Master Mason and he also belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen. His political support is given to the Democracy but he has always been without political aspiration. The Eltings have for many years been among the most highly esteemed residents of Girard township and Branch county and Theron Elting of this review is a worthy representative of the family.

BRADLEY O. MOORE.

Prominent among the solid and influential residents of Branch county and Butler is the gentleman named above, who in times of both peace and war has proven himself a faithful and loyal citizen, ready in time of war to go to the defense of his country's honor, and in times of peace proving himself a law-abiding man who is interested in the welfare of the commonwealth and the betterment of his fellow beings.

Bradley O. Moore was born in Groveland, Livingston county, New York, February 16, 1839, and this place was his home until he was eighteen years of age. His father was Isaac Moore and his mother was Nancy Ogden, both being natives of the Empire state, where the greater portions of their lives were passed. They were the parents of nine children, as follows: George W. Moore is still living and a resident of Mt. Morris, New York. Homer Moore died while a resident of Butler, May 30, 1893. Adeline Moore Bartlett died in Mount Pleasant, Iowa. Chester C. Moore was a victim of the Civil war, enlisting in the First New York Dragoons and being captured at the second battle of Bull Run. He was confined in the noted prison at Andersonville, where he died from the result of wounds and privations. James Moore lived and died in the home town of Groveland, New York, as did also another brother, Jennings Moore. Mary Ann Moore died in the state of New York in infancy. Edwin Moore was a resident of Michigan, Nebraska, Missouri and other places in the west and died in 1900 in Oregon, where he had lived for about fifteen years previously. Bradley O. Moore is the subject of this sketch. The father of the family, Isaac Moore, died in Detroit, in 1845, while in Michigan on business, while the mother, Nancy Ogden Moore, died in Groveland, New York, in 1847.

It will thus be seen that our subject was but a mere lad when he suffered the loss of both his parents and he was early thrown upon his own resources, thus developing an independence and a sturdiness of character which has no doubt aided greatly in his success throughout life.

Bradley O. Moore found occupation in his home town until he approached his majority and then, being attracted by the tide of emigration

which had been flowing for several years from the Empire state to Michigan, he resolved to try his fortunes in the then almost untrodden middle west. He came to Michigan alone in 1856 and was a resident of Saginaw for several months when that place was but a mere hamlet as compared with the present flourishing city located there. From there he went to Hillsdale county, where he lived at Jonesville for several years, employing himself at different occupations, although principally upon the farm. Soon after coming to Branch county he purchased in 1861 eighty acres of land on section twenty-two, Butler township, and afterward secured forty acres additional on section sixteen and decided to make his home here.

Then, soon after the outbreak of the Civil war, he responded to his country's call and July 22, 1862, enlisted in Company G, Eighteenth Michigan Infantry. He was with the Eighteenth during its campaigns in Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama and served during the remainder of the war, a goodly portion of this time as a non-commissioned officer, his discharge occurring July 11, 1865, at the close of the conflict. After the war he was so disabled as to incapacitate him for hard labor for a period of about a year, which time he spent in the state of New York. Returning to Michigan, he was married, June 23, 1868, at Quincy, Michigan, to Miss Anna Ball, a native of Tekonsha, Calhoun county, where she was born June 9, 1849, her father being Elisha Ball, who died in Butler, her mother being Sarah Rogers, who afterward married Edward McDonald, she dying in Nebraska. There were seven children in the family, as follows: Elizabeth Lord died in Iowa. Eli Ball died in early childhood. Charles Ball is still living in Nebraska. Adeline McDonald died in Butler. Abbie McCone is still a resident of Nebraska, as is also Adelia Ball. Anna Ball Bradley is the wife of our subject.

Four children have been born to Bradley O. and Anna Ball Moore, as follows: Minnie was born October 7, 1869, and is married to Robert McArdle, of Clarendon, Michigan. Bertha was born August 25, 1871, and is married to Lewis Johnson, of Butler. They have two children, Forest and Rhea. Chester C. Moore was born April 1, 1877, and lives at home, where he is a most capable assistant to his father in the management of the farm. He has a great natural bent for mechanics and the place contains a great many mechanical contrivances which have been established by him. Lulu M. Moore was born April 24, 1885, and her home is with her parents, although she has been absent for the greater portion of the time for several years, attending school at Coldwater and also at the Michigan State Normal College at Ypsilanti.

Bradley O. Moore has often been called upon to fill positions of public trust and responsibility, his fellow townsmen delighting to thus do him honor, not alone from personal regard and friendship, but also by reason of the fact that in his hands they know that their interests will be well and carefully guarded. Mr. Moore has filled several terms as supervisor of his township and he was also township clerk, township treasurer and a school officer for many years. During the greater part of his life he has been a stalwart Republican, although of late years he has often joined the ranks of

independent voters. By perseverance and untiring labor, coupled with a keen insight and good business ability, he has prospered financially, his fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres on section twenty-two, Butler township, being one of the most fertile in this section. Mr. Moore has with his own hands cleared the most of this large farm and he has erected here most commodious structures and a modern residence. The whole place is most thoroughly equipped, including a complete system of water works, and it is a model farm home. Mr. Moore is also largely interested in western timber lands, his property of this character in the state of Oregon being quite valuable.

During his life Mr. Moore has witnessed the development of Branch county and the township of Butler from an almost unbroken wilderness to its present state of agricultural perfection, and in this section, where he has passed the greater portion of his life, he possesses the regard and esteem of the entire community.

HORATIO NELSON BIDELMAN.

Horatio Nelson Bidelman, whose life has been devoted to agricultural pursuits and to dealing in horses, the latter branch of business now claiming his attention, has manifested in his business career an activity of spirit and persistency of purpose that have proved strong elements in winning success. He was born in the town of Shelby, Orleans county, New York, July 4, 1836. His paternal grandparents were Henry and Catherine (Becker) Bidelman, natives of Herkimer county, New York, and of German lineage. His father, Abram Bidelman, was born in Herkimer county, New York, March 9, 1800, and died in Orleans county on the 6th of June, 1868. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Lucinda Michael, was also a native of Herkimer county, born in 1802, and her death occurred in Orleans county in 1870. They were members of the Christian church and Mr. Bidelman gave his political support to the Democracy. A farmer by occupation, he always followed that pursuit in order to provide for his family. Unto him and his wife were born seven children: Samuel, who now resides in Barry county, Michigan, at the age of eighty years; Louisa, who became the wife of Arthur Johnson, of Niagara county, New York, and died there; Julia Ann, who married Wallace Acer and died in Orleans county, New York; Jane, who married Roderick McDonald and also departed this life in Orleans county; Horatio N.; Clara, who is the wife of Henry Williams and resides in Coldwater; and Lorenzo, who is living in Orleans county, New York.

Horatio N. Bidelman spent his boyhood days upon his father's farm and was educated in the country schools. He started out in life for himself when eighteen years of age and attracted by the business opportunities of the west came to Branch county, Michigan, arriving here with only ten shillings in his pocket. He made the trip in company with his eldest brother Samuel in 1855, with whom he lived for some time. He has remained continuously a resident of Branch county and during the half century that has since come and gone he has been active in business affairs and has also been the champion of progressive public measures.

As a companion and helpmate for life's journey Mr. Bidelman chose Miss Ann Eliza Williams, whom he wedded on the 14th of February, 1861. She was born in Quincy township, Branch county, December 20, 1840, her parents being Alpheus and Sylvia (McLain) Williams. Her father, who was born in Vermont, August 28, 1801, died in this county October 10, 1877. He had become a resident of Michigan in 1836, at which time he took up his abode in Quincy township. It was on the 30th of September, 1827, that he married Miss Sylvia McLain, who was born May 21, 1804, and she died in Branch county on the 11th of February, 1883, about six years after her husband's death. Mr. Williams followed the occupation of farming and assisted materially in the pioneer development of this part of the state. His early home was a log cabin which stood in the midst of a forest, for at that time much of the land was covered with the native growth of timber and the work of improvement seemed scarcely begun. Desirous of making a home for his family in a locality which would offer good business and educational advantages he became a co-operant factor in all measures for general progress. Unto him and his wife were born seven children: Daniel, who died in Minnesota; George and John, who died in Coldwater; Henry and Edward, whose deaths occurred in Quincy township; Monroe, who died in Iowa; and Mrs. Bidelman, who is the only surviving member of the family.

After his marriage Mr. Bidelman and his bride began their domestic life on a farm in Quincy township. He first operated land on the shares and when he had saved a small sum of money he purchased a little tract of land upon which he made partial payment. Laboriously and earnestly he sought the means to discharge his indebtedness and soon had his farm clear of all financial obligation and as his resources increased as the years went by he added to his possessions. He was afterward for a short time in the livery business in Quincy, but selling out there he returned to his farm, where he began dealing in live stock in connection with carrying on general agricultural pursuits. He has handled many fine horses and has matched and sold some splendid teams of fine driving stock. In 1879 as a partner of Harlow Williams he entered the livery business in Coldwater and after one and a half years he purchased his partner's business, conducting the business alone for ten years. On the 18th of December, 1889, his barn was destroyed by fire and he sustained a heavy loss, but the strength of his character was here manifest in the courageous manner in which he erected a new and better livery barn. This was conducted for several years by his son Emmett A. and Mr. Bidelman still owns the property. He has continued to deal in horses and finds this a profitable source of income because he is an excellent judge of stock.

Mr. and Mrs. Bidelman have but one child, Emmett A., who is now a resident of San Bernardino, California. He was born on the old home farm in Quincy township, Branch county, November 11, 1861. He married Miss Ida Weaver and to them have been born three children, Irene E., now deceased, Hallie J. and Elizabeth A. Mr. and Mrs. Bidelman spent the winter of 1904-5 in California, visiting their son and also viewed many points of interest in the state. His political allegiance is given to the Dem-

ocracy and he is fraternally connected with the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He owns and occupies a nice brick residence at No. 48 North Monroe street and as one of Branch county's pioneer settlers is deserving of mention in this volume.

RUSSELL B. HOLLENBECK.

For the past forty years the name of Hollenbeck has been associated with the history of the township of Girard and this portion of Branch county, where members of the family of this name have resided. The first Hollenbeck to locate here was Caspar Hollenbeck, who came with his family from New York state in the spring of 1866. Caspar Hollenbeck was born in Columbia county, New York, February 21, 1806, his ancestors having been residents of the Empire state for several generations. He grew to manhood in his home county, which is on the border line between the states of New York and Massachusetts, and he was united in marriage at Hillsdale, Massachusetts, October 10, 1833, with Miss Lucy Jones, a native of that place, where she was born March 19, 1813. Her parents were natives of Massachusetts, as also were her ancestors for several generations previously, they bearing a direct and unbroken line of ancestry back to the landing of the Pilgrim fathers. Caspar and Lucy (Jones) Hollenbeck passed their early married life in Columbia county, New York, where Mr. Hollenbeck was engaged in farming, and where their four children, two sons and two daughters, were born and where they grew to manhood and womanhood.

Impressed with the attractions offered in the middle west, Mr. Hollenbeck and his family came to Michigan, arriving in Girard in the spring of 1866. Here he became the owner of considerable land and followed his former pursuit of farming. He was a man who stood high in the regard of his fellow townsmen and his death, which occurred December 4, 1889, was deeply deplored, as was also the demise of his estimable wife, her death occurring here November 26, 1890.

Of their four children, only the two sons survive, Russell B. Hollenbeck, the subject of this sketch, and his brother, Truman Hollenbeck. Truman Hollenbeck was born in Columbia county, New York, September 15, 1834, and he was also for many years a resident of Girard, although now living in Coldwater. Jane Eliza (Hollenbeck) Arnold was born in Columbia county, New York, October 11, 1836, and died in Girard, August 15, 1872. The other daughter, Wealthy Amelia (Hollenbeck) Tappenden, was born in the same county June 5, 1840, and died in Girard, August 7, 1874.

Russell B. Hollenbeck was born in Columbia county, New York, October 10, 1838, and he was twenty-eight years of age when he came to Michigan. He was married in Palmyra, Wayne county, New York, to Miss Fannie J. Whitmore, who was born November 23, 1840, and their marriage was blessed with the birth of three children. A son, Frank, died in Girard, January 7, 1874, at the age of nearly three years. A daughter, Mida, is married to B. E. Hall, of Girard. They have two sons, Harold and Russell. Jessie, the other daughter of Russell B. and Fannie Hollenbeck,



Harriet E. M'Crary.



A. G. McCary

is married to Truman Taylor, also a resident of Girard. They have two daughters, Lucile and Lois. The wife and mother, Fannie (Whitmore) Hollenbeck, died in Girard, March 26, 1893, at the age of fifty-two years.

The second marriage of Russell B. Hollenbeck was consummated November 20, 1900, when he was united with Mrs. Buella Cook Lamkin, the adopted daughter of Charles S. and Priscilla Cook. She was born in Medina county, Ohio, March 11, 1863, and she passed the early portion of her life in Ohio. She has three children by a former marriage, Florence A. Lamkin, of Colon, Michigan; and Edgar Lamkin and Celia Lamkin Garthe, of Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell B. Hollenbeck live in a most comfortable home on section twenty-two, Girard township, where Mr. Hollenbeck owns and operates a handsome farm of one hundred acres of fertile land. He has developed this farm from its former rough and uncultivated condition to its present state of agricultural perfection, with the excellent buildings and the beautiful shade trees, while with his own hands he performed a goodly share of the labor required in the building of the home which he has occupied for the past thirty-seven years. It is but natural, then, that he should love the spot above all other places on earth, and that here he hopes to spend the remainder of his days. Although, like his father before him, an old-time Democrat of the Jeffersonian school of politics, Mr. Hollenbeck, believing that both of the great political parties of the present day have drifted far from their original beliefs and declarations, has during the past decade been a Prohibitionist. Mr. and Mrs. Hollenbeck are both members and active workers in the Girard Methodist Episcopal church, while fraternally Mrs. Hollenbeck is affiliated with the Daughters of Rebecca. Both are earnest Christians and a power for good in the community. The old strain of Puritan religious belief inherited from his sainted mother shows in Mr. Hollenbeck. With him, religion is not merely a creed for Sundays, but is carried into his everyday life. He is filled with love for his fellow men, while the benefits of his belief have been so many and are so fully appreciated that he desires all of his fellow men to be similarly blessed. Mr. and Mrs. Hollenbeck are refined and educated people and their home life is a particularly happy one.

ALEXANDER C. McCRARY.

Alexander C. McCrary, whose life record proved that success and an honorable name can be won simultaneously, leaving his family at his death a handsome competence and an untarnished record, was a native of the Empire state, his birth having occurred on the 9th of March, 1815, in Hector, New York, which was then in Tompkins county. His grandparents were Alexander and Eunice (Armstrong) McCrary, the former a native of Cayuga county, and the latter of Orange county, New York. Their last days were spent in Hector township, Schuyler county. Their third child was Joseph McCrary, whose birth occurred in Goshen, Orange county, October 24, 1778. Having arrived at years of maturity he married Abigail Culver, who was the first white child born in Bath township, Steuben county, New York, her natal

day being January 13, 1795. She was a daughter of Phineas and Phebe (Breese) Culver, the former a native of New England, while the latter was born in the Empire state. Her father died in Hector, Schuyler county, and Mrs. Culver passed away in Chicago.

Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Joseph McCrary began their domestic life in Hector township, Schuyler county, where they resided until 1836, when they sought a home in Michigan, locating in Henrietta, Jackson county. There they spent their remaining days, the father passing away on the 14th of February, 1856, while his wife died on the 18th of February, 1863. They had twelve children, Phineas C., Alexander C., John B., Elias R., Polly A., George W., Phebe A., Andrew J., Lawrence H., James N., Harriet and Mary J., while one son, Joseph, died in infancy, all the others, however, reaching the age of maturity.

Alexander C. McCrary spent his early youth in the state of his nativity and when but a lad began earning his living, owing to financial reverses which his father sustained. He worked at any pursuit that would yield him a sufficient financial return to provide him with the necessities of life and remained in New York until twenty years of age, when he came to the west, removing from Penn Yan, New York, to Ann Arbor, Michigan. He there secured a situation in a hotel conducted by Adelphos Gulley, in whose employ he remained for eighteen months, after which he removed to Tekonsha, where he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. As soon as possible he purchased land on his own account, becoming owner of a tract of eighty acres, which he bought with money saved from his wages in former years. He worked for others at times and at still other periods he gave his energies to the improvement of his own property, and thus his time was passed until his marriage, when he had a new incentive for developing his home farm. Before his settlement at Tekonsha he had wedded his wife and then went to Lima and worked there about two years, whence returning to Tekonsha, and began on the new farm in the forest.

On the 5th of November, 1836, Mr. McCrary wedded Miss Harriet Eliza Dean, theirs being the first marriage celebrated in Tekonsha after the organization of the township. The parents of Mrs. McCrary were Perly A. and Phebe (Brown) Dean, natives of Connecticut and Norwich, Vermont, respectively. They first settled in Benton, Yates county, New York, where they remained until October, 1835, and then came to this county and settled in Tekonsha, where they lived until their decease, that of the mother occurring May 30, 1878, and of the father March 28, 1880. Their family consisted of five children, Harriet E., Nelson N., Leonard, Chester and Jane. Mrs. McCrary is the eldest of the parental family, and was born in Benton, Yates county, New York, September 9, 1818. She has borne to her husband a family of eight children, who are recorded as follows: Calvin, enlisted in August, 1862, in Company M, Fifth Michigan Cavalry, in which he became a non-commissioned officer. He was killed May 28, 1864, at the battle of Cold Harbor, being shot through the head, and his remains were buried in the churchyard known as Salem's Church, close by the battle-field; Adelaide lives at home, and Adelphos died when ten years of age; Marion became

the wife of Edward Wirt Watkins, of Sherwood township; Leroy married Miss Alice B. Moyer, and resides in Union township; Frank is a resident of Kansas City, Missouri; Laura A. died when a babe of fourteen months; and Clay is a resident of Union township.

Mr. and Mrs. McCrary began their domestic life in Tekonsha township and were residents of that locality until 1848, with the exception of a year and a half. In the fall of 1848 they removed to Lima, Washtenaw county, and later in the same year took up their abode in Sherwood township. In the meantime the family circle had been increased by the birth of five children, and the parents and children became residents of a farm on section seven, which had first comprised seventy-six acres of land. As the years passed and his financial resources increased, however, Mr. McCrary extended the boundaries of this property and also invested in other tracts until his landed possessions at one time aggregated twelve hundred acres. He afterward disposed of much of that but in his later years retained possession of five hundred acres of very valuable land. He was a successful agriculturist, raising good crops and at the same time having fine stock upon his place, making a specialty of the raising of horses and hogs. He continued in Sherwood township, Branch county, until February, 1874, when he removed to Union township and there resided up to the time of his death.

While living in Tekonsha Mr. McCrary was called to various positions of trust and responsibility and was very faithful, loyal and efficient in the discharge of his official duties. After removing to Union township he became one of the directors of the Union City National Bank. His political allegiance was given to the Republican party and he was deeply interested in its success. He passed away May 11, 1898, and his loss was deeply regretted by many friends. He had become widely known in the county as one of its representative agriculturists, a man whom to know was to respect and honor. Throughout his active life he had displayed diligence and perseverance, supplemented by integrity and straightforward dealing. Many of the now successful men of the day are those whose paths are strewn with the wrecks of other men's fortunes, but Mr. McCrary was never known to take advantage of the necessities of his fellowmen in any business dealing. He was just to all and his life record largely embodied the golden rule. He never sought public notoriety, but was content to do his duty day after day to his family, his friends and his community. His life is in many respects worthy of emulation, for it proves the value and sure rewards of character. In the cemetery at Union City there stands a magnificent monument to the memory of Mr. McCrary, with a perfect statue of marble of the worthy old gentleman, sacred to his memory and erected by his son Roy.

The form once erect in its manhood and pride,
With firm tread that appeared on the street,
Whose hardy frame time and tempest defied,
Now lies a wreck at our feet.
But death was the victor; we bow to his will—
The golden bowl's broken, the brave heart is still.

He fought the fierce fight in the battle of life
With courage majestic and grand,
And many that fell by his side in the strife
He raised with a generous hand.
True love for mankind in his actions we trace;
Success crowned his efforts in every place.

His course is now run, and we lay him to rest,
With hearts full of tenderest love;
A Brother and Friend, the kindest and best,
We commend to the Father above.
We trust in His grace, but with sorrow-dimmed eye,
Hoping one day to meet him, we bid him good-bye.

May 11, 1898. HIS BROTHER, L. H. McCRARY.

MRS. ALEXANDER C. McCRARY.

It is meet and fitting that due reverence and respect be paid Mrs. Alexander C. McCrary, one of the pioneer mothers of Branch county, whose engraving appears opposite her most worthy husband, Alexander C. McCrary, these beautiful steel engravings being placed in this work by their two sons, Clay and Roy, whose worthiness, business acumen and high social and business standing is so well known in northern Branch county, as well as the sister county of Calhoun. Mrs. McCrary was in every respect the worthy helpmeet of her husband and for nearly sixty-two years shared his toils and privations, his joys and sorrows, and during the first years of their married life, while living in their humble log cabin home in the wilderness, she endured hardships and privations that would paralyze the young wives of the present generation. With her family of little children she often remained, for a week at a time, alone, and attended to her household duties as well as the duties upon the little primitive farm, the husband being called too far to return to his home from his distant work till Saturday nights. It was no easy task to keep house then as it is at the present time. Her furniture was all home made, and a single room served for a kitchen, dining, parlor and sleeping room. Her cooking utensils consisted of a bake kettle and an iron skillet, and all the food was cooked over the coals in the rude stone fireplace. The Indians often called at her cabin door and she traded them bread and flour for venison and other wild meat. Fear never entered the breast of this hardy and sturdy pioneer mother. At one time when a severe storm blew the roof from her cabin she lived several days with the blue sky for shelter, until her husband returned and replaced the roof. Many travelers who were seeking homes in the western country stopped at their rude, but welcome, cabin for something to eat or a night's lodging, and not one was ever turned away empty handed from her door, and that habit of doing for others followed her through her whole life, as hundreds who have partaken of her bounty can testify. She survived her husband about two and a half years, and passed peacefully from this earth March 5, 1901, at the home

of her son Clay in Union township, and the writer believes that in that better land she has joined the partner by whose side she toiled for over three score years. The following poem, written and composed by Mr. McCrary's brother, Lawrence Hubbard McCrary, is a just tribute to a devoted wife and loving mother:

TRIBUTE TO MRS. A. C. MCCRARY.

Once more o'er our faces the tear drops are stealing,
With sorrowful hearts we greet the fair dawn;
Each hour passing by our loss is revealing—
A fond, loving mother and sister is gone.

As we look in the past, when cares were around us,
Her cheerful voice ever did lighten the way;
And the smile that she gave when in sadness she found us,
Drove the gloom from our hearts and turned darkness to day.

Her sympathy reached to the poor and the needy,
The naked were clothed, the hungry were fed;
And hundreds to whom she gave bounty so freely
Were praying for blessings to rest on her head.

Alas! She has left, gone, her presence endearing;
No more in this world to feel gladness or pain;
But one glorious thought our hearts is now cheering—
In that bright land of sunshine we'll meet her again.

L. H. MCCRARY.

B. F. GREEN.

Seldom do we find a man of eighty years of age with a sturdy physique, mental attributes, unimpaired and inventive genius, apparently as good as in early or middle age, but such an one do we find in the person of B. F. Green, of Union City, the subject of this sketch. Mr. Green was born in Watertown, Jefferson county, New York, in 1822, and there he grew to manhood, learning in the meantime the machinist's trade. In 1849 he moved to Ogdensburg, New York, and was engaged in the distilling business there and at Prescott, Canada, for nearly thirty years, having charge of extensive distilleries in these two places the greater portion of the time. He came to Michigan in 1869, where, with the exception of one year spent in California, he lived until coming to Union City in 1886. Here he established a machine shop on a small scale, but he has added to the equipment from year to year until now it is one of the best in this portion of the state, supplied, as it is, with the latest improved machinery for the rapid turning out of work. Mr. Green has always had a great bent for mechanics, and has worked at this trade more or less all his life. As a practical gunsmith, he is unequalled and this branch of business is well patronized. His love for a gun led to his frequent practice as a marksman and for a number of

years he was one of the most expert shots in the east. In 1879 he defeated the crack shots of the eastern states in several contests, and even to-day, at his advanced age, is no mean opponent. Mr. Green, although engaged in the distilling business for so many years, has never indulged in intoxicating liquors and has never touched tobacco. His excellent and temperate habits are no doubt in a great measure responsible for his sturdy condition today. Associated with Mr. Green in the machine shop is Mr. Lewis Wilcox, who has had a valuable experience in this line under the direction of Mr. Green. Mr. Wilcox has lived in Union City sixteen years, and has worked a goodly share of the time in the shop. He is a thorough mechanic. Mr. Wilcox is a member of three local Masonic orders, and has a wide acquaintance in this vicinity. He was married six years since to Miss Bertha Lilly, and they have one child.

ROY McCRARY.

Roy McCrary, formerly identified with agricultural interests, but now for many years living retired, enjoying a well earned rest, makes his home in Union City. He is a native of Tekonsha, Calhoun county, Michigan, born on the 12th of October, 1847. He is the fifth child and third son of Alexander Cole and Harriet Eliza (Dean) McCrary, who are mentioned on another page of this volume. He accompanied his parents on their removal to Union township when a young lad, and at the usual age entered the common schools, acquiring a knowledge of the branches of learning which qualify one for the performance of the practical and responsible duties of a business career. He continued to assist in the cultivation and improvement of his home farm up to the time of his marriage.

On January 21, 1872, Mr. McCrary wedded Miss Alice V. Moyer, and unto them were born three children, two daughters and a son: Alta May, who was one of the youngest to ever graduate in the Union City school, graduating at the age of seventeen, is now the wife of William Waffle, of Athens township, Calhoun county, Michigan; Effie E., the wife of Claud Felker, of Lockport township, St. Joseph county, Michigan; and Alexander C., at home and in the high school. On the 22d of August, 1904, Mr. McCrary was again married, his second union being with Elizabeth Nelson, a daughter of Lewis and May Givin Wilcox, and the widow of Frank B. Nelson, of Sherwood, Michigan. By her former marriage she had two daughters: Iva Blanch, a graduate of the Sherwood High School and formerly a teacher, is the wife of Otto Bennett, of Sherwood township, and Reah, who is at home with her mother and in high school.

Mr. McCrary has devoted his entire life to agricultural pursuits and is now the owner of three valuable farms to which he yet gives personal supervision, although he leaves the active work to others. One of these is located in Sherwood, one in Madison, and a third in Union township, and he has given his daughter a farm of one hundred and sixty-seven acres not far from Fisher Lake, in St. Joseph county. He is one of the stockholders in the National Bank, at Union City and one of the directors of the First National Bank, at Three Rivers, Michigan. His success is the crown of well directed effort. He has probably passed on the highway of life others

who started out with more advantageous equipment than he, but he possessed earnest purpose and diligence and as the years have gone by has so directed his labors that he is now the owner of valuable land as well as bank stock. Indeed he is one of the substantial citizens of the community and his success is very creditable. In politics he has been a life-long Republican. He has erected one of the most costly and beautiful monuments for his father, in the Riverside cemetery at Union City, Michigan.

CLAY McCRARY.

Clay McCrary, the proprietor of the Sunnyside farm on section six, Union township, is also connected with other business enterprises of Branch county that show him to be a man of marked capability, enterprise and keen discernment. He was born in Sherwood township, June 22, 1855. His father, Alexander C. McCrary, is mentioned on another page of this work, being one of the pioneer settlers of the locality who aided in laying broad and deep the foundation for the present progress and prosperity of this section of the state. Clay McCrary was reared on the old family homestead in the usual manner of farm lads until eighteen years of age, working in the fields through the summer months, while in the winter seasons he attended the public schools, acquiring a good practical English education. At the age of eighteen he came to Union township and was engaged in assisting his father on the farm.

In 1893 occurred the marriage of Clay McCrary and Miss Carrie M. Woods, a daughter of Jesse A. and Angeline (Webster) Woods. The young couple began their domestic life on a farm in Sherwood township where Mr. McCrary carried on general agricultural pursuits until 1896, when he located on the farm where he now lives on section six, Union township. He has a valuable property of two hundred and forty acres in Sherwood township, while a rich tract of eighty acres constitutes the Sunnyside farm. He rents much of his land and gives little attention to the raising of grain, but is one of the prominent horse dealers of the county, buying and selling a large number of horses each year and as he is an excellent judge of stock he is enabled to make judicious purchases and profitable sales. He has also extended his efforts to other lines of activity and his opinions are regarded as valuable in matters of business judgment. He is one of the stockholders of the Union City National Bank, a stockholder in the Peerless Yeast Manufacturing Company of Union City and in the creamery of Union City, Michigan.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. McCrary have been born three children, but Nora, the eldest, died at the age of eight years. The others, Bertine A. and Joseph C., are attending school in Union City. Mr. McCrary is a staunch Republican, interested in the growth of the party, yet without political aspiration for himself. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and has also taken the Rebekah degree at Leonidas. With the exception of three years, from 1878 until 1881, during which time he was engaged in merchandising in Burlingame, Kansas, he has always lived in Branch county, so that his history is well known to his fellow citizens and the fact that

many of his staunchest friends are those who have known him from his youth to the present time is an indication that his has been an upright and honorable career. He has applied himself earnestly to the conduct of his business interests and his perseverance, unremitting diligence and sagacity have been strong elements in his prosperity.

MRS. POLLY A. DUNN.

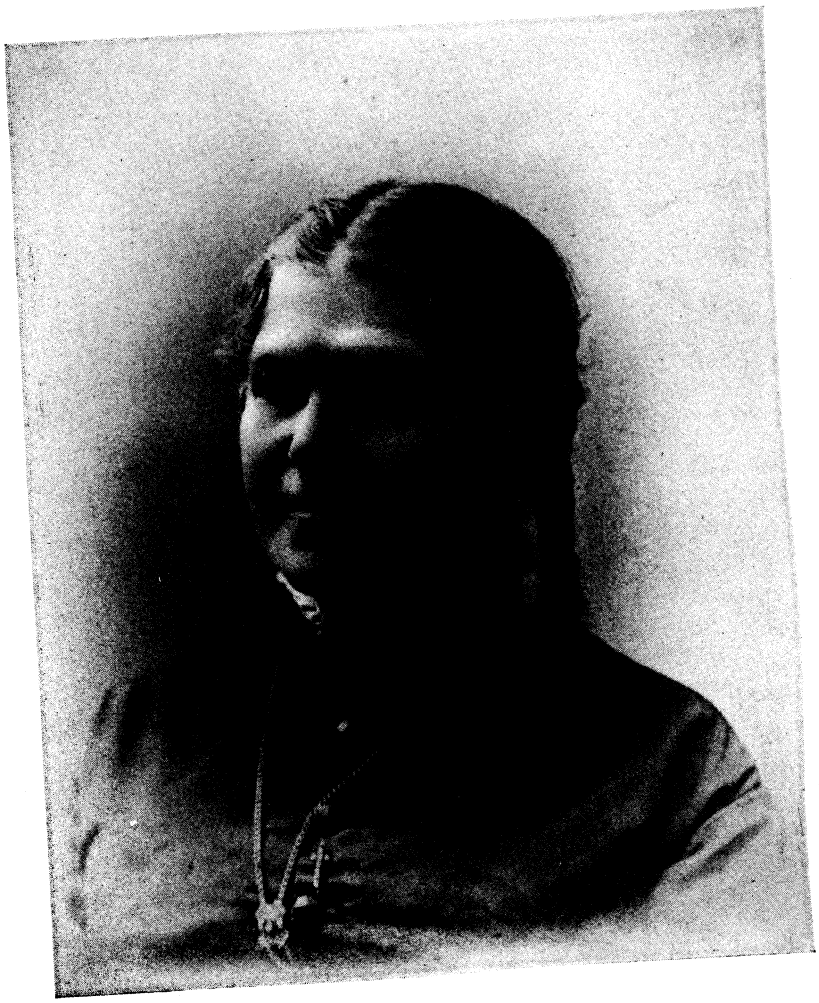
The ladies of America have played a most conspicuous part in the history of the nation, both local and national. The old Empire state of New York has populated the middle west with more of her sons and daughters than possibly any other of the states north of Mason and Dixon's line.

The worthy lady whose name heads this review is a daughter of the state of New York, having been born January 1, 1821, in the township of Junius, central New York, near the site of the Cornell University. She, when but a little maiden, removed with her parents to the township of Lodi, thence to Ann Arbor, Michigan, in the autumn of 1836. She wedded Oscar Otis in October, 1841. He was an engineer by occupation, a man of kindly disposition and one who was honored and respected by all who knew him. He died March 28, 1858, leaving two children: Emma, the wife of Rev. Dr. Wilkinson, and Frank, who became a sea captain and for several years was considered one of the best navigators of the sea. He died at Port Tampa, Florida, July 23, 1898.

During her widowhood Mrs. Otis plied her needle to support herself and children, and to pay for the home which sheltered them. On February 17, 1862, she married Aretus Dunn, a well known business man of Ann Arbor, who had made a snug fortune in California in his younger days. He died June 4, 1895, leaving his widow with plenty of this world's goods. It is not out of place to say here that Mr. Dunn was one of these big hearted men who made legions of friends wherever he was known, and in the latter years of his life his old friend, Leland Stanford, offered to send his private car for him if he would visit him in his California home, but on account of his failing health, Mr. Dunn was obliged to decline the offer. Mrs. Dunn lives in her elegant home on Washington street, Ann Arbor, with her daughter and son-in-law, and although four score years and five have passed over her head, still her form is erect and her mind as bright as most of the people half that age. She has been favored in more ways than this, having never been obliged to consult a dentist, her teeth being as sound as when she was twenty years old, and her curly hair is the envy of all the girls who know her. But now, past the age of an octogenarian, her sun is fast setting beneath the western horizon of life, and soon her days will be numbered, but the good life she has led and the kind deeds she has done will be as monuments to this good woman's life and memory.

LEMANDER JAMES.

Lemander James, who carries on general farming on section twenty-six, Matteson township, here first opened his eyes to the light of day on the 28th of October, 1851, his parents being William and Nancy Jane (Gillen)



Ed Dunn

James, both of whom were natives of Ohio. The father was an old settler of this county and for many years devoted his energies to farming in Matteson township. He was born in Ohio in 1822 and was reared in that state, coming to Branch county in 1846. He settled on what is now known as the James farm, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of raw land, which at that time was covered with timber. This he cleared and improved, placing it under cultivation. He was married in Branch county to Miss Nancy Jane Gillen, a native of Ohio, born in 1825, and in that state her girlhood days were passed. She came from Ohio to Branch county at an early period in the development of this part of the state and the only child of her marriage was Lemander James. The father was a life-long Republican, and had a wide and favorable acquaintance in Branch county. In citizenship he was progressive and public-spirited and his co-operation was a resultant factor in general progress. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity of Bronson, and his life was in harmony with the teachings of the craft. He died upon the old homestead farm in 1871, while his wife departed this life in 1874.

Lemander James was reared and educated in his native township, attending the district school, his early studies being pursued in one of the old-time log schoolhouses. Later, however, better school buildings were erected and the methods of instruction were also improved. He helped to cultivate the home place and after his father's death he remained upon the farm, assuming its management. His entire life has been devoted to general agricultural pursuits and he is today the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land that is rich and productive, the greater part of which is under a high state of cultivation. There are good improvements on the property in the shape of substantial buildings and modern machinery and the place is divided into fields of convenient size by well kept fences.

In 1872 Mr. James was united in marriage to Miss Mary Jane Kinter, who was born in Batavia township, Branch county, in 1852, and is a daughter of Richard Kinter, a pioneer settler of Branch county. Mrs. James spent her girlhood days upon her father's farm and mastered the branches of learning taught in the district schools of Batavia township. Two children graced this union, Willie and Mabel, but the latter is now deceased. Mr. James votes with the Republican party where national issues are involved, but at local elections regards only the capability of the candidate. He has held several township offices and the trust reposed in him has been well merited, for he has been found faithful, prompt and efficient in the discharge of his duties.

SAMUEL KNAUSS.

Samuel Knauss, who is engaged in the real estate business in Coldwater, is a native of Pennsylvania, his birth having occurred in Union county, December 12, 1840. His parents were Solomon and Sarah (Moore) Knauss, both natives of Lehigh county, Pennsylvania, and of German descent. They removed to Erie county, Ohio, when their son Samuel was a lad of six years, and there they spent their remaining days, both having now passed away. In their family were twelve children, nine of whom reached years of maturity.

Samuel Knauss was reared in Erie county, Ohio, spending his boyhood days on the home farm until fourteen years of age. At that age his father and sister hired him out to J. G. Sumner, a merchant in Bellevue, to work in his dry goods store for a consideration of fifty dollars for six months' service and board himself, which cost forty-eight dollars. From that time till he was of age he worked for different parties in grocery and dry goods stores. Later he assisted in the cultivation of the home farm until twenty-two years of age, when he again started out in life on his own account.

In 1864 Mr. Knauss was married to Miss Jemima Cleveland, and they have become the parents of two daughters: Jennie L., now the wife of L. J. Byers, and Nettie E., the wife of Alfred Pierce.

Following his marriage Mr. Knauss engaged in farming and afterward followed merchandising as a dealer in agricultural implements at Bellevue, Ohio, for twelve years. In 1875 he came to Branch county, Michigan, settling in Kinderhook township, where he again carried on agricultural pursuits until the fall of 1904, when he located in Coldwater, where he is now engaged in the real estate business. He has thoroughly informed himself concerning realty values and is well qualified to place investments and make sales. He has served as under sheriff of the county and he gives his political allegiance to the Republican party. Fraternally he is a Master Mason, while his religious connection is with the Methodist Episcopal church.

WILLIAM WANAR.

William Wanar, who is a practical, progressive and prominent farmer of Batavia township living on section twenty-one, was born in Reichenberg, Germany, on the 15th of October, 1838. His parents were Frank and Anna Wanar. The mother came to America in 1857 and the father crossed the Atlantic in 1882, both spending their last days in Branch county, the funeral services of this worthy couple being conducted by Rev. Collin, the editor of this work. The subject of this review was reared in the place of his nativity until sixteen years of age. During that time he acquired a fair public school education and he also learned the butcher's trade. Hearing favorable reports concerning America, its business opportunities and the advantages afforded young men he determined to try his fortune in this land where labor is unhampered by caste or class. Accordingly he bade adieu to friends and native country and in 1854 sailed for the United States, settling first in Auburn, New York. He afterward lived at Waterloo, Seneca county, New York, and in 1857 made his way westward to Michigan, coming direct to Branch county. Having no capital and therefore facing the necessity of at once providing for his support, he worked out by the day and month and afterward spent some time on the road as a lightning rod agent. He followed that business for about eight years, traveling over the country, making sales in Indiana, Illinois and Ohio.

On the 19th of October, 1862, Mr. Wanar was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Matilda Morsman, a daughter of John and Eunice (Stanton) Morsman. The father was born in Buffalo, New York, in 1802 and in 1839

removed to Ohio, settling in Trumbull county. In 1852 he came to Michigan, locating at Coldwater, Branch county. He was a farmer by occupation and his last days were spent in South Haven, Michigan, where he passed away in 1867. His wife lived to the advanced age of seventy-eight years. Mrs. Wanar was the fourth in order of birth in their family of eight children and first opened her eyes to the light of day in Herkimer county, New York, on the 6th of June, 1836. She was in her sixteenth year when she came to Branch county and here she has since lived. Mr. Wanar at the time of his marriage located in Bethel township, where he remained for about two years, when he sold his property there and bought a farm on section two, Batavia township. Locating thereon he at once began the further development and improvement of that land and made the place his home for eighteen years, when he traded the property for the farm upon which he now resides on section twenty-one, Batavia township. Here he has lived for twenty-three years, giving his time and attention to the work of tilling the fields, caring for the crops and raising stock. He is truly a self-made man and deserves much credit for what he has accomplished. When he arrived in America he had a capital of four dollars, and he was a stranger in a strange land, unfamiliar with the English tongue and with the customs and manners of the people. Indeed he could not speak a word of the language here used. He worked for four dollars per month for more than a year and during that time acquainted himself with English. He also clerked in a store and he utilized every opportunity to gain a knowledge of the methods of business life as practiced in the new world.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Wanar have been born two sons: Jay F., who is engaged in merchandising in the town of Olds; and Charles H., who is operating his father's farm. The former married Christine Klose, a daughter of Frederick Klose, and they have three children: Crystal, Lissette and William Frederick. Charles Wanar wedded Miss Mary Jones, a daughter of Charles Jones, and they also have three children: Norine, who is in the eighth grade, and is especially fond of arithmetic and geography; Lorain, in about the same grade, and is an artist in constructing forms and is natural in her tastes; and Mary, who is classed in the same grade as her sisters. The homestead farm comprises one hundred and sixty acres of land which is well improved, largely owing to the efforts of William Wanar, who has always been a diligent, enterprising man, faithfully performing each task as it has come to him and discharging every duty that has devolved upon him. He has made an excellent business record by reason of his fidelity to duty and the prompt manner in which he has met every obligation devolving upon him and he is regarded as one of the reliable citizens of Branch county. After studying political questions and issues and acquainting himself with the attitude of the two parties Mr. Wanar decided to give his support to the Republican party and has since been a champion of its interests. Both he and his wife are well known in the county where they have so long resided and with its history they have been closely identified. His success has been based upon the qualities of strict and unswerving integrity, unabating industry and diligence that never fails and his record has been so honorable

and commendable that his methods cannot fail to prove of interest to those who know aught of his career. He is a splendid type of the German-American citizen and his history is an excellent example of what may be accomplished in the "land of the free" where labor finds its just reward.

SETH B. RANDALL.

Seth B. Randall, numbered among the practical, progressive and prosperous farmers of Coldwater township, was born in Yates county, New York, May 21, 1845, and is a representative of one of the old families that through several generations has been represented in the Empire state. His father, Orson Randall; was born in Putnam county, New York, August 25, 1807, and was married on the 15th of September, 1833, in Milo, Yates county, to Miss Laura J. Gilbert, whose birth occurred at Sharon, Litchfield county, Connecticut, on the 27th of November, 1814. Her father, Ephraim Gilbert, died September 30, 1827, and the mother, Mrs. Jerusha (Peck) Gilbert, passed away two days before, so that at the age of thirteen years Mrs. Randall was left an orphan. As stated, she was married in 1833, and in 1840 Mr. and Mrs. Randall came to Michigan, settling first at Allen, Hillsdale county, where the father conducted a hotel for several years, it being one of the pioneer hostelries of that section of the state. About 1840 he came to Coldwater township, Branch county, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land bordering Randall's Lake. It lay on section five, Coldwater township, and was purchased from the government. Upon the farm which he there developed he spent his remaining days, giving his life to its further cultivation and improvement. His wife died on the 10th of March, 1880, and on that occasion the following lines appeared in the Coldwater Republican:

"Mrs. Orson Randall died at her home in Coldwater township last Wednesday morning after a long and painful illness of some brain trouble, which for nearly two years past has made her entirely blind and helpless. She was sixty-five years of age and leaves beside her husband a family of five children. Thirty-five years ago the family came to the township from Penn Yan, New York, and still reside on the farm on which they then located, and where the children all grew to man's and woman's estate. Hers is the first death that has occurred in the family during their thirty-five years' residence here. She was a member of the Baptist church of this city, and was a lady who was held in the highest esteem by all who were acquainted with her. Her remains were laid in their final resting place in Oak Grove cemetery yesterday."

Mr. Randall survived until September 21, 1889. Since reaching the state in 1840 he had resided continuously here save for a brief period of a few years which he passed in New York. He was a Republican in his political views and was a man greatly esteemed as an important factor in the early history of his town and county. When he passed away the following was written in his memory in one of the local papers:

"Another Pioneer Gone.—Orson Randall was born in Putnam county, New York, and moved to Yates county of the same state when a youth.



Willow Bank, country residence of Mr. and Mrs. Seth B. Randall

He grew to manhood in that county and was married to Miss Laura Gilbert, who died in Coldwater at the age of sixty-seven years. They packed their goods and emigrated to Michigan in 1840, which was a territory at the time, if my memory serves me right. They located in Allen township the same year and they built them a shanty and had a quilt hung up for a door; and at night they thought the wolves were going to take possession, coming right up in front and around the so-called house. They afterwards built a house and for the accommodation of the public he opened it as a tavern. One man told the writer not many days ago that he had put up at the so called house and he very well remembered the following words on the sign: 'Live and Let Live—O. Randall.' He concluded in after years that keeping a public house was not his calling and so exchanged for a farm on the west side of Coldwater lake now occupied by Seth B. Randall, his youngest son. Five children survive him. He spent the greater part of his life on this farm. He united with the Baptist church and took an active part in its construction. At the close of his declining years he bought a house in the city and lived there until his death. He was honored and respected by all who knew him."

Both he and his wife were members of the Baptist church and were people of the highest respectability, enjoying the warm regard of all with whom they were associated. In their family were five children, all of whom reached adult age, namely: Alonzo, who was born in Milo, New York, July 8, 1834, and is now living in Eaton Rapids, Michigan; Eunice, who was born in Howard, New York, March 9, 1836, and is the wife of C. I. Fonda; George A., who was born in Allen, Michigan, August 11, 1838, and died at Ann Arbor, Michigan, February 9, 1890; Seth B., of this review; and Emily R., who was born in Allen, Michigan, March 14, 1841, and is the wife of Wenzell Gruner, a resident of the city of Coldwater.

Seth B. Randall was born in the Empire state during the period in which his parents lived there after their return from Michigan. However, when he was a young lad he was brought to this state and his early life was passed upon the home farm which he now owns. He aided in the work of field and meadow, and in the winter months acquired a good practical education in the common schools. On the 12th of March, 1871, he was married in Coldwater to Miss Sarah E. Giles, who was born in Port Credit, Canada, June 13, 1848, a daughter of Joshua and Helen (Ferguson) Giles, the former a native of London, England, and the latter of the Hudson Bay territory. Her father was a bridge builder under Lord Suffolk in the Hudson Bay territory. Mr. and Mrs. Giles had a family of six children, namely: William John and Thomas A., who died in childhood; Mrs. Jane Brandon, who lives in Toronto, Canada; Mrs. Isabelle Brownridge, of Isabella county, Michigan; Mrs. Catherine Stevens, of Grand Rapids, this state; and Mrs. Randall. Mrs. Randall was a teacher in this locality when she formed the acquaintance of Mr. Randall. Their marriage has resulted in the birth of two sons: George, born December 17, 1876, and now at home with his parents; and Ralph S., who was born April 2, 1884, and is a bookkeeper and cashier in Clarke's drug store in Coldwater.

Mr. Randall exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Republican party and for nine years has served as justice of the peace, while at this writing he is serving his second term as commissioner of Coldwater township. He has lived on his present farm from the age of two years, and it is a splendid property improved with a modern residence and all the equipments and accessories found upon a model farm of the twentieth century, located on the banks of Lake Randall. He displays considerable mechanical ingenuity and artistic skill and his home contains many specimens of his handicraft in the way of furniture and decorations. He belonged to Coldwater lodge, A. O. U. W., and is a man uniformly esteemed throughout the community, for his life has been honorable and upright, his actions manly and sincere. In the careful conduct of his business interests he has met with creditable prosperty, finding that success is ambition's answer. Mr. and Mrs. Randall have an old Bible in their home which was published in 1790, which is an heirloom and one of the oldest books found in the county of Branch. They also have one of the old "Longfellow Clocks," the framework of which was made by Mr. Randall. Their pretty estate or country seat is known as "The Willowbank Farm," and lies on the banks of Lake Morrison.

JOHN HULSE.

The farming interests of Branch county have a worthy representative in John Hulse, who is the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of fertile land in California tonwship. He was born in Cayuga county, New York, on the 4th of January, 1842, and is the only surviving member of a family of six children born unto John and Charity (Perkins) Hulse. The family was an old one in New York. The paternal grandfather, Isaac Hulse, spent the greater part of his life in the Empire state, but in his last years came to Branch county, Michigan, and died here. John Hulse, father of our subject, was born in Nester county, New York, November 17, 1802, and in his early life learned the cooper's trade, which he followed in his native state. Hoping to more rapidly acquire a competence in the new and growing west he came to Michigan in 1855, making his way to Branch county, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of new land, upon which not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made. The arduous task of clearing and cultivating the tract was at once begun by him and in the course of years he had placed sixty acres under the plow and was gathering therefrom rich crops. Much of the remainder of the farm has been cleared by John Hulse of this review, but there is still a good tract of timber upon the place. John Hulse was united in marriage to Miss Charity Perkins, also a native of Nester county, New York, born on the 19th of July, 1802. She was a daughter of Ebenezer and Lucy (Cooper) Perkins, who lived and died in the Empire state. Mr. and Mrs. Hulse continued to reside upon their farm in Branch county, the father carrying on the active work of the fields until his life's labors were ended in death on the 18th of January, 1859. His wife survived him until September 20, 1876. He gave his political allegiance to the Whig party, but was without aspiration for office. His wife was a member of the United Brethren church and was a most estimable lady. In their

family were six children, of whom one died in infancy, the others being Mrs. Betsy Yarns, who passed away in New York; Martha L., who died in childhood; Mrs. Hannah Jane Hall, who died in California township, Branch county; Hiram, who was a veteran of the Civil war, serving in Company I, Ninth Michigan Infantry, and died at Knoxville, Tennessee; Mrs. Delilah L. Hazen, who died in Iowa; and John, who completes the family.

John Hulse spent the first thirteen years of his life in the state of his nativity and then came with his parents to Michigan. His education, begun in New York, was continued in the public schools of Branch county. He was reared to manhood upon the home farm and as his age and strength permitted assisted more and more largely in the work of clearing and developing the land. He has always lived upon the old homestead and succeeded to the property after his parents' death. He operated the farm after the death of his father, starting out in life on his own account when but seventeen years of age. Ninety acres of the home place came to him through inheritance, together with personal property, on condition that he supported his mother during the remainder of her life. She lived for eighteen years thereafter and he did his filial duty, putting forth every effort in his power for her welfare and happiness. He is now the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of very productive land and seventy-five acres of the farm is cleared, while fifty acres is still in timber. His fields are well tilled and through the rotation of crops as well as through the timely planting of his seed and his care of the growing harvest he is enabled each year to sell considerable quantities of grain and thus provide a comfortable living for himself and family.

On the 18th of June, 1889, Mr. Hulse was united in marriage to Miss Lavina E. Albright, who was born in Steuben county, Indiana, on the 23rd of November, 1858, a daughter of Christopher and Catherine (Michael) Albright, the former a native of Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, born May 18, 1823, and the latter born in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, October 10, 1827. They were married in the Keystone state on the 8th of February, 1849, and lived for fifty years in Steuben county, Indiana, but their later years were passed in Branch county, where the father died March 9, 1902, and in his honor the following obituary notice was written: "Christopher Albright was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, May 18, 1823, and was joined in marriage with Catherine Michael, February 8, 1849, and the following May they came to Steuben county. To this union were born seven children, four of whom, with his aged wife, survive him. His death occurred March 9, 1902, aged seventy-eight years, nine months and nineteen days. The deceased was held in highest esteem by his friends and neighbors and his life was a blessing of untold value to the community in which he lived so many years. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. J. A. Sprague, at Fremont, in the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he was a member." The mother survived until January 20, 1905, and at her death the following notice was written: "Mrs. Catherine Albright died last Friday evening at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Hulse. She had been in poor health for some time, but had only been seriously sick for a few days.

The funeral was held Sunday afternoon at the Methodist Episcopal church, Rev. F. A. Reichelderfer officiating. Catherine, daughter of Philip and Susannah Michael, was born in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, October 10, 1827, was united in marriage to Christopher Albright, February 8, 1849, came to Steuben county, Indiana, the following May. To them were born seven children, of whom three, with husband, father, mother, two brothers and five sisters, have preceded her to the spirit land. In the year 1852 she united with the Methodist Episcopal church, and has endeavored to live a true Christian life. The God whom she served in life was her support in death. She leaves three brothers, three sons, one daughter, seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, with a host of other friends to mourn the loss. She departed this life January 20, 1905, aged seventy-seven years, three months and ten days." They had traveled life's journey together for more than a half century. Their marriage was blessed with seven children, of whom one died in infancy, while the others were: Phillip, who died at the age of seventeen years; Wesley S., living in this township; Joshua P., who is postmaster at Fremont, Indiana; Jacob C., who is a preacher of the United Brethren church at Nappanee, Indiana; Susan A., who has departed this life; and Lavina, now Mrs. Hulse. The parents in early life were members of the German Methodist church and in later years joined the English Methodist church and at all times they were actuated by Christian principles and won the respect and good will of those with whom they were associated. Mr. Albright gave his entire life to general agricultural pursuits and thus provided for his family.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hulse have been born a daughter and son, Delilah Catherine and Ralph John, both of whom are at home. The parents and children are members of the United Brethren church and are close and earnest followers of the teachings of that denomination. Mr. Hulse is also a staunch advocate of the cause of temperance and votes with the Prohibition party. While leading a busy life upon his farm, all improvements having been made there since he took up his abode thereon and in the work of which he was an active assistant, Mr. Hulse has nevertheless found time to devote to interests of a public nature. He has served as superintendent of the Sunday school and as a member of the board of trustees in the United Brethren church and has also been assessor of the school district for twelve years, being the incumbent in that office at the present time. The family have a good farm home and their position in public regard is that which is ever accorded in recognition of genuine personal worth and of principles which neither seek nor require disguise.

ARTHUR E. ROBINSON.

Arthur E. Robinson, president and general manager of the Regal Gasoline Engine Company, was born in the city of Coldwater in 1859. His father, Hiram B. Robinson, was a native of Springfield, Massachusetts, where in early manhood he became foreman of a cotton mill, but about 1852 or 1853, on account of failing health, he came to the west, settling in Coldwater. Here he married Miss Laura A. Dunks, a native of New York, who

died in 1877, leaving two sons, Arthur E. and Herbert D., the latter also associated with the Regal Gasoline Engine Company. The father died in this city in 1888, when sixty-five years of age. He had engaged quite largely in speculation and was very successful in his business relations. Both he and his wife were Baptists in religious faith. They were people of the highest respectability, gaining many friends in the city of their residence.

Arthur E. Robinson was reared and educated in Coldwater and began his business career as a traveling salesman of a hardware house of Cleveland, Ohio, which he represented on the road for six or seven years. On leaving that service he entered the real estate and loan business in Coldwater and handled considerable valuable property. In 1900 the Regal Gasoline Engine Company was organized as a stock company, Mr. Robinson being active in the promotion of this enterprise and since that time he has been president and general manager. It is one of the large and profitable productive industries of the city and he belongs to that class of representative American men who, while advancing individual success, also contribute to the general prosperity.

Mr. Robinson was married in 1884 to Miss Anna L. Nichols and both he and his wife are members of the Baptist church. Socially they are prominent in Coldwater and their own home is attractive by reason of its gracious and cordial hospitality.

MICHAEL RONAN.

Michael Ronan, the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres on sections one and twelve, Girard township, spends the summer months upon this place and the winter seasons in the city of Coldwater, where he also owns a comfortable home. He was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, May 18, 1851, and is a son of Martin and Mary (Costello) Ronan, both of whom were natives of Mullengar, Ireland. They came to America in 1850 and after a brief residence in New Jersey removed to Clarendon, Calhoun county, Michigan, in 1851. The father was there drowned in June, 1853, in Homer Lake, and in the same year Mrs. Ronan removed with her family to Girard, where she lived until her death on the 23rd of September, 1902. She had three children by her first marriage: Michael; Mary, who became the wife of Dr. J. L. Ramsdell and is now living in Albion, Michigan, where her husband is successfully and extensively engaged in the practice of medicine; Martin, who died in Detroit in 1899. After losing her first husband Mrs. Ronan married A. J. McConvry of Girard, by whom she had two children: James McConvry, who lives in London, Ontario; and Nellie McConvry, who died in Girard in 1883. After the death of her second husband Mrs. McConvry became the wife of Edwin Wheeler, also of Girard, by whom she had two children: Edwin and Emma Wheeler, both of Girard.

Michael Ronan spent his youth in his mother's home and after mastering the branches of learning pursued a commercial course in Hillsdale College at Hillsdale, Michigan, from which he was graduated with the class of 1883. He was thus well equipped for life's practical and responsible duties

and has ever been recognized as a man of keen discernment and intelligence. He was married on the 21st of February, 1884, to Miss Bertha Canny of Rochester, New York, the wedding being celebrated in Philadelphia. They now have three children: Marie, who is a graduate of the Ypsilanti State Normal and now a successful teacher connected with the schools of Tekonsha; Nellie, who is a fourth year student in the high school at Coldwater; and Kenneth, yet at home.

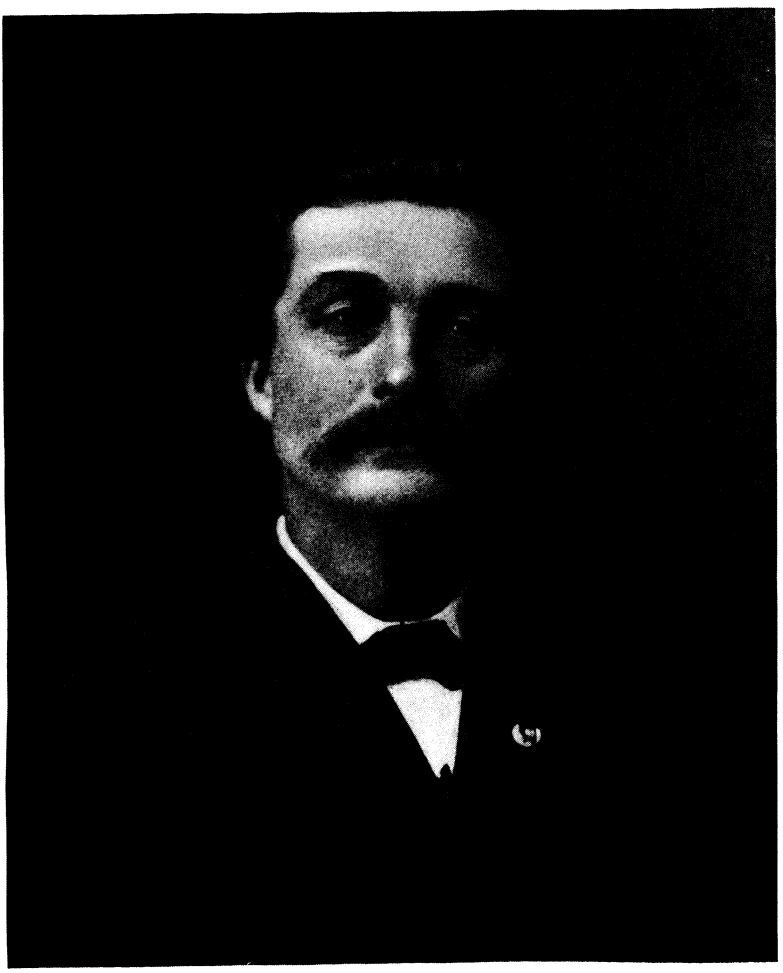
For a few years after his marriage Mr. Ronan lived on a fine farm in Tekonsha township, but later sold that property and purchased his present farm, the old homestead, comprising one hundred and sixty acres of land on sections one and twelve, Girard township. Here he and his family spend the summer months, while throughout the remainder of the year they reside in the city of Coldwater, where they have a comfortable home. In his business affairs he is energetic and reliable and his unremitting diligence and keen discernment are the resultant factors in his prosperity. His entire life has been devoted to agricultural pursuits and his worth is widely recognized as a representative of the farming community. Having spent almost his entire life in this county, he has a wide acquaintance and his strong and salient characteristics are such as have made him respected and honored by all who know him.

HOWARD A. GRUBE, M. D.

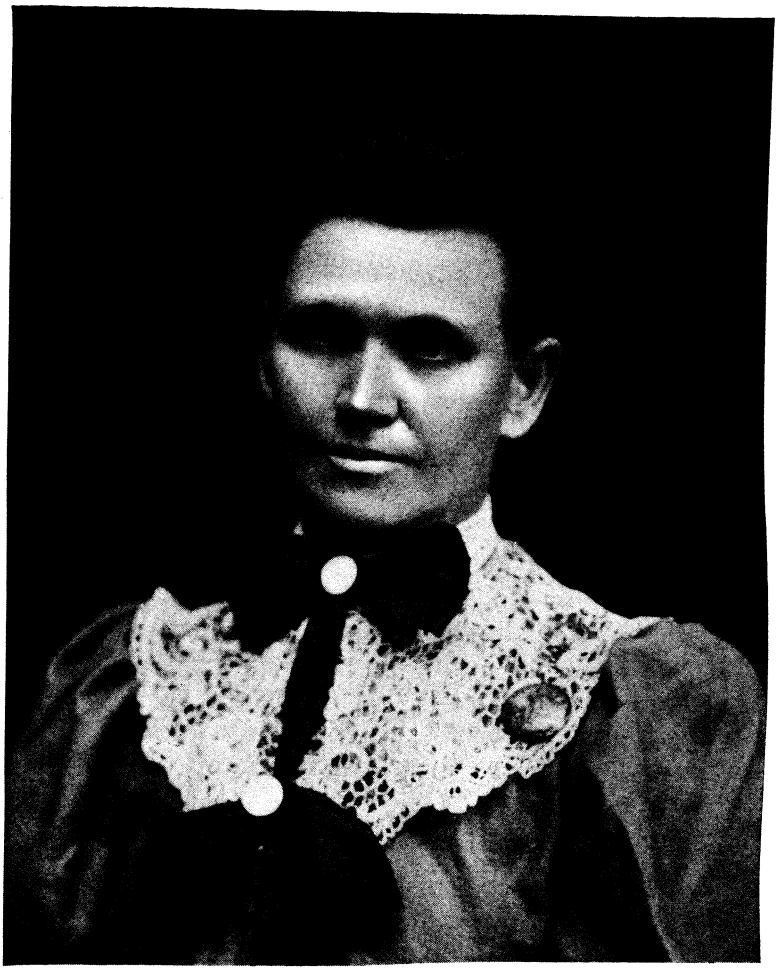
Dr. Howard A. Grube, for four years connected with the medical department of the United States volunteer service in the Philippines and now a practitioner of Coldwater, making a specialty of surgery, is numbered among the native sons of Indiana, his birth having occurred on a farm in Marshall county, that state, April 18, 1867. The family is of German lineage and the progenitor in America was Casper Grube, great-grandfather of Dr. Grube, who was born in Germany and crossed the Atlantic to the new world, becoming a resident of Pennsylvania, in which state his son, Casper Grube, Jr., was born. About 1810 the latter removed to Marshall county, Indiana, where his remaining days were passed.

Daniel S. Grube, father of the doctor, was a native of Pennsylvania and is now living in Plymouth, Indiana, at the age of seventy years. He was a teacher in the schools of Marshall county, that state, for twenty-three years, and of his eight children six have been school teachers, while the grandfather and great-grandfather of Dr. Grube also followed the same profession. The family has thus contributed in appreciable measure to the intellectual development of the communities in which its different members have resided, and loyalty in citizenship has also been a marked family characteristic. Daniel S. Grube married Hannah Shively, who was born near Canton, Ohio, and died in Plymouth, Indiana, in 1900, at the age of fifty-eight years. Her father, Rev. John Shively, was a native of Pennsylvania, was a minister of the Dunkard church and became one of the early settlers of St. Joseph county, Indiana.

Dr. Howard A. Grube, the eldest of the eight children in his father's family, spent the first fifteen years of his life in the county of his nativity,



Willis Hall



Mrs Willis Hall.

and at that age came to Coldwater, where he entered the employ of his maternal uncle, John W. Shively, a dry goods merchant of this city, with whom he remained for six years. His ambition, however, tended toward professional lines. He had acquired his preliminary education in the district schools of his native county, and while clerking he devoted his evening hours largely to study, preparatory to entering college in order to prepare for the practice of medicine. At length he matriculated in the medical department of the University of Michigan, from which institution he was graduated in 1891. He then returned to Coldwater, where he opened an office, and the wide and favorable acquaintance which he had previously made now proved to him of much benefit in his professional career. Many called upon him for medical and surgical aid and he soon secured a good patronage.

After the outbreak of the Spanish-American war, however, Dr. Grube was commissioned captain and assistant surgeon of the Thirty-fifth Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and four months later he was promoted to major-surgeon of his regiment, thus serving until mustered out with his command in April, 1899. He then returned to Coldwater, but in September of the same year, he was again commissioned assistant surgeon of United States volunteers, with the rank of captain, and sent to the Philippine Islands. In 1901 he was promoted to the rank of major and in 1902 was made chief surgeon of northern Luzon. He returned to the United States early in the following year and was mustered out. He brought with him a valuable collection of Philippine relics, together with specimens of their embroidery, fabrics, hats and other wearing apparel, weapons, etc., and these may now be seen in his office in Coldwater, where he immediately resumed practice on his return.

In the summer of 1903 Dr. Grube pursued a post-graduate course in the University of Michigan, and reading and investigation have continually broadened his knowledge and promoted his efficiency. He is a member of the Tri-State Medical Society and of the American Medical Association. Before joining the army he was surgeon for the Lake Shore & Michigan Central Railroad, and for one year was attending physician to the Michigan state public school at Coldwater. He gives especial attention in his practice to surgery, and his ability in that line is of superior order, ranking him with many older representatives of the profession. In August, 1905, he was appointed by Governor Warner surgeon of the Second Infantry, Michigan National Guards.

WILLIS HALL.

Willis Hall, whose home is on section thirty-five, Quincy township, is a native son of Hillsdale county, Michigan, born on the 20th of September, 1860. His father, William Hall, was a native of Wales, and died in 1861, at the age of seventy-two years. In early life he left the little rock ribbed country in which he was born and crossed the Atlantic to America, locating in the east, where he was living at the time of the war of 1812, when he espoused the cause of his adopted country and entered military service during

the period of hostilities. He was a shoemaker by trade, but devoted the greater part of his life to the occupation of farming, and at an early epoch in the development of Michigan he came to this state, settling in Hillsdale county, where he died. In his business affairs he was active and energetic and had become quite well-to-do. He was twice married, and by the first union had five children. His second wife bore the maiden name of Lucina Durham and was born in Vermont. Both her parents died in Ohio, and Mrs. Hall passed away in this state, November 13, 1888, at the age of sixty-three years. By her marriage she had become the mother of five children: Reuben W., a watchman living in Barry county, Michigan; Angeline, the wife of Alfred Chambers, a miller and farmer of Emmet county; Lucy, deceased; and Willard and Willis, twins, but the former is also deceased. The mother was three times married, first to Mr. Jones, by whom she had a son, Oliver Jones, who was a soldier in the Civil war, and was killed at the battle of the Wilderness; second, to William Hall, the father of the subject of this review, and the third time to J. I. Bevens. At her death the following lines were written:

"In Quincy township, November 13, 1887, of paralysis, Mrs. Lucina Bevens died, aged sixty-three years, two months and seventeen days.

"Mrs. Bevens was born in 1824, and became a follower of Christ at the age of thirteen years. She was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which she took great delight. She was three times a widow, and the mother of twelve children, seven of whom survive her. For the past six years she has been living with her son, Willis Hall, in Quincy township. For the past few months she had visited among her children, arriving home just five weeks previous to the day of her death."

Willis Hall was reared upon the home farm in Michigan and attended the district schools. He came to Branch county, Michigan, in 1878, settling in Quincy township, upon the farm which he still owns on section thirty-five. He has here one hundred and twenty acres of rich and productive land and he likewise owns twenty acres on section twenty-six of the same township. He is a stock buyer and feeder and makes quite extensive shipments annually.

In 1886 Mr. Hall was married to Miss Hattie Ann Wiser, who was born in Quincy, December 23, 1862. Her father was Harvey Wiser, a native of New York, who came to Michigan at an early epoch in its settlement and took up his abode in Quincy township, Branch county, where he followed the occupation of farming. He married Sylvia Garrett, who was born in Reading township, Hillsdale county, this state, and their only child was Mrs. Hall. Unto Willis and Hattie Hall have been born four children: Lena May, born September 3, 1889, finished the public schools and is now a student in the Quincy High School, this being her second year, and she drives four miles each day to the school. She has taken lessons in elocution and also instrumental music. Nora Leona, born July 18, 1891, is a bright little miss, now in the eighth grade in the public schools. She has also taken music. Thomas Lester, born December 19, 1896, a typical boy, but standing well in his studies. He is a great aid to his father on the estate. He drilled and sowed fourteen acres of oats and twelve acres in oats and peas, all by

himself, and has done all the mowing and raking for four seasons. Daisy Dean, born June 7, 1898, is in school in the third grade, and is the youngest of the family. Mr. Hall is a member of the Mystic Workers of the World, of which his wife is also a member, and he is banker of the order. They are both worthy members of the "Four Town Grange," located in Quincy township, and Mrs. Hall holds the position or office as "Pomona." By his ballot he supports the Republican ticket. He is regarded to-day as one of the prosperous farmers of Quincy township, who stands for enterprise and progress not only in the line of his chosen occupation, but in all that pertains to the county's welfare.

JOHN E. OUTWATER, M. D.

Dr. John E. Outwater, who has been engaged in the practice of medicine at Bronson, Michigan, more than thirty years, and who is ranked with the leading citizens of the county, dates his birth in Newfane, Niagara county, New York, September 20, 1845. His parents, Peter and Emily (Ketcham) Outwater, both natives of the Empire state, moved west with their family when John E. was a boy and settled in Branch county, Michigan, where they passed the rest of their lives and died. They have two sons and two daughters now living, William A. being a resident of Colorado, and the daughters, Julia and Harriet, residing in Branch county.

After the removal of the family to this county John E. continued his studies in the common schools and subsequently directed his attention to the medical profession, going to Cincinnati and pursuing a course in the Eclectic Medical Institute, where he graduated June 6, 1882. Returning to Branch county, he put out his shingle in Bronson, where he has since remained, conducting a successful practice.

Dr. Outwater has been twice married and is the father of three children, two of whom are deceased. The daughter, Miss Emma, resides with her parents in their pleasant home in Bronson on Chicago street, between Madison and Walker streets. The doctor's present wife was formerly Miss Eva J. Bennett, a native of New York, and she has a diploma from the same medical college in Cincinnati from which her husband was graduated. Politically, Dr. Outwater may be termed an independent Republican. For several years he served as health officer in his township.

ED W. WATKINS.

Ed W. Watkins, a veteran of the Civil war and one of the old settlers of Sherwood, was born in Leonidas, St. Joseph county, Michigan, December 3, 1842, a son of William M. and Barbara E. (Hill) Watkins. His great-great-grandfather, Nathan Watkins, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war under General Washington, and his son, Mark Watkins, was only fourteen years of age when he went as a drummer boy with his father. He was taken prisoner at the battle of Bennington, and when they came to exchange prisoners, General Burgoyne said, "He is too young; we will send him back to his mother as a present," which was a beautiful thought of gallantry on the old British general's part. William Watkins was a na-

tive of New York and settled in St. Joseph county, Michigan, in February, 1832, becoming one of its pioneer residents. He took up land from the government and improved two farms, thus assisting materially in the reclamation of a wild district for the purposes of civilization. He was a life-long supporter of the Republican party and served as sheriff of St. Joseph county for four years, while for thirty years he was justice of the peace and for many years acted as supervisor. There was no man in the entire county better known or more worthy the regard which was uniformly given him. He was prominent in Masonic circles and he wielded a wide influence, doing much to mold public thought and opinion, and because of his adherence to every movement that was calculated to benefit his community he was regarded as a most valuable citizen. For a half century he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, active and zealous in its work, and there were no esoteric chapters in his life history, for his public and private career were alike above reproach. Both he and his wife passed away at the age of eighty-three years. In their family were eight children, six of whom reached adult age, but only three are now living.

Ed W. Watkins, the eldest of the family, was reared in the place of his nativity and pursued his education in the township and village schools. He remained at home assisting in the labors of the farm until 1863, when he enlisted in defense of the Union cause, becoming a member of Company F, Eleventh Michigan Infantry. With that command he served until the close of the war, in September, 1865, and he rose from the ranks to the position of sergeant. He was in the campaign from Grayville to Warrentown and also in the Atlantic campaign under fire for fifty-six days, a valiant soldier, facing danger fearlessly because of his allegiance to his country. He remained at the front until honorably discharged at Nashville on the 16th of September, 1865.

Mr. Watkins then returned to the place of his nativity, residing in St. Joseph county until 1870. He was married March 26, 1867, to Miss Marion McCrary, a daughter of Alexander and Harriett E. (Dean) McCrary, who are mentioned on another page of this work. Mrs. Watkins was their fourth child. She was born in Tekonsha, Michigan, and was reared in Sherwood, Branch county.

On leaving his native county Mr. Watkins settled in Athens, Calhoun county, where he remained until 1888, when he came to Sherwood township. There he resided until 1900, when he took up his abode in the village of Sherwood, and retired from active business, having for many years been connected with agricultural interests, his labors winning him the competence which is the goal for which all men strive in a business career.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Watkins were born two sons and a daughter: Lynn A., who wedded Mary Henry, and has one son, Fred H.; Grace E., who occupies a good position in a store in the city of Oklahoma; and Alexander, who married Fannie Shafer, and resides on a farm near Sherwood.

Mr. Watkins has been a life-long Republican, having voted for Abraham Lincoln in 1864, and he has since supported each presidential nominee at the head of the ticket. He has been township treasurer of Sherwood

township for two years and has held other local offices and is always loyal to the public trust. He belongs to Kilbourn Post No. 361, G. A. R., has served as its commander and has filled all of the other offices. He is likewise a member of Sherwood Lodge No. 421, A. F. & A. M., and both he and his wife are members of the Eastern Star. He has held all of its offices, being very active in its work. She was a charter member and the first worthy matron. She likewise belongs to the Woman's Relief Corps No. 25, Union City, and was a delegate to the national convention at San Francisco, California, in 1903, for district No. 4, and was invited to Pittsburg to read a poem of her own composition on the occasion of the national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic. Both Mr. and Mrs. Watkins are prominent socially, having the warm regard of many friends, while the hospitality of the best homes of this section of the county is freely accorded them.

CHARLES SUMNER SEARS.

Charles Sumner Sears, engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery in Quincy, is a native of Ontario county, New York, born in 1853. He is descended from New England ancestry. His father, Clark C. Sears, was born in Connecticut and is now living at the advanced age of seventy-eight years. In early life he removed to New York, and in 1861 he came to Michigan, settling in Quincy township, where he followed the occupation of farming. He married Miss Harriet E. Warner, who was also a native of Ontario county, New York, and this worthy couple yet reside in Quincy, Michigan.

Mr. Sears, of this review, began his education in the district schools and continued it in the schools of Quincy. He also pursued a course in Ypsilanti normal school and attended one course of lectures in the medical department of the state university at Ann Arbor, after which he entered Hahnemann Medical College of Chicago, from which he was graduated in 1879, having completed a thorough course in medicine and surgery. He then entered upon practice in Auburn, Indiana, where he remained for three years, since which time he has practiced with success in Quincy. He is careful in the diagnosis of a case, painstaking in all his professional duties, and with thorough understanding of the principles and practice of medicine he has so administered professional aid that excellent results attended his efforts. In addition to his practice he is the owner of a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Quincy township, two miles northwest of the village of Quincy, and thereon carries on general stock-raising and dairying.

On September 4, 1880, Dr. Sears was married to Miss Nettie Shaffer, who was born in Ashland county, Ohio, in 1861, and is a daughter of Christopher C. and Martha (Siphers) Shaffer. Her father was a merchant and removed to the west in an early day. He became identified with business interests in Auburn, Indiana, being the pioneer furniture dealer of that place. He was of German lineage and manifested in his life many of the sterling characteristics of the sons of the fatherland. In his family were four children. Mr. and Mrs. Sears have but one child, Carl C., who was

born in Auburn, Indiana, in 1882, and attended school in Quincy, being a graduate of the high school of the class of 1900. He read medicine in his father's office and afterward pursued special studies in the Michigan Agricultural College at Lansing and also in Ferris Institute at Big Rapids. He next entered the Detroit Homeopathic College of Medicine in 1901 and was graduated in the spring of 1905. He then began practice with his father and they are well versed concerning all departments of modern practice. Both the father and son are members of the Masonic fraternity and Dr. Sears and his family belong to the Presbyterian church of Quincy. His political views accord with Republican principles and he has served on the school board and as trustee of the village. He has conscientious regard for the obligations which devolve upon him, and in his practice his efforts have been attended with success that shows him thoroughly familiar with modern medical and surgical principles.

JAMES B. MINTLING.

Although a resident of Michigan and Girard but a few years, nevertheless the gentleman named above is deserving of mention in a work of this character by reason of his ownership of one of the finest farms in the township of Girard and because he is a man of intelligence and already deeply interested in the welfare and progress of the community in which he resides. Branch county is always ready to welcome within her borders men of the character and standing of Mr. Mintling, knowing that their presence adds to the betterment of the place in many ways.

Mr. Mintling was born in Des Moines county, Iowa, January 30, 1857, and he lived there until he was twenty-one years of age. His father was William M. Mintling, a native of Pennsylvania, where he was born March 20, 1818. He was married at Carleton, Ohio, to Elizabeth Welty, who was born in that state March 29, 1820. Soon after their marriage they joined the early pioneers who were seeking homes in the then unbroken west, and in the early forties they took their course down the Ohio river to its junction with the stream of the Mississippi and then coursed their way up the latter stream into Iowa, where they were among the very first to locate land and make for themselves homes. Iowa was then a virgin state, with settlers few and far between, and the young couple braved all the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life in a new country.

Here they reared a large family of children and afterward removed to Nebraska, when that country was also new, where the senior Mr. Mintling died in October of 1887, and where his aged widow still lives, being in the full possession of all her mental and physical powers even at the advanced age of eighty-five years. They were the parents of ten children, two of whom died in early childhood and eight of whom are still living, as follows: Rebecca Mintling Roe, Emma Mintling Franklin, Eliza Mintling Shotwell, William J. Mintling and Rufus Mintling, all of Nebraska; Mary Ann Mintling Cocayne and Sarah Mintling Cocayne, both of Iowa; and Mr. James B. Mintling, Girard, Michigan.

Mr. James B. Mintling, the subject of this sketch, was married December



"Maple Grove Farm," Residence of Mr. and Mrs. James B. Mintling.

7, 1883, to Miss Josie Gillett, who was born at Angola, Indiana, July 6, 1854. She was the daughter of Charles Gillett and Annis Tillotson, the father of New York and the mother of Ohio, although living for many years in the Hoosier state, and afterward removing to Nebraska, where Mr. Gillett died March 12, 1883. Mrs. Gillett is still living at Lincoln, Nebraska. They were the parents of four children, all of whom are still living, they being Mrs. James B. Mintling, of Girard, Michigan; Mrs. Franc Griswold, of Nebraska; and Wilkes and Charles Gillett, both of whom are in the far west.

The union of James B. Mintling and Josie Gillett Mintling has been blessed with the birth of three children, all of whom are living at home. William Charles finished the public school course and received his diploma in 1901, in Nebraska, and spent one year in the Wesleyan University, University Place, Nebraska. He is a prosperous farmer. Julia I. is in the ninth grade, high school course, and is proficient in instrumental music. James Harry is now in the seventh grade, and is bright in his studies.

Mr. James B. Mintling was born and reared upon a farm and early in life he decided upon agriculture as a life vocation. After attaining his majority he went from Iowa to Nebraska with his parents and lived in the vicinity of Lincoln, that state, until coming to Girard in March, 1901. Here he purchased the George A. Russell farm of one hundred and thirty-seven acres of fertile farming land on section thirteen, Girard township, which is equipped with fine substantial farm buildings, including a commodious house of modern construction, the whole forming a model farm residence, seldom equalled, even in this land of prosperity and plenty. Here Mr. Mintling has also made his influence felt in the community. He was a township and school officer in Nebraska, and he is also at present the director of the school district in which he resides. He has always taken a deep interest in educational affairs, is an intelligent reader and a discriminating observer and he commands the respect and esteem of his friends and neighbors. Mr. and Mrs. Mintling are members and active workers in the Girard Methodist Episcopal church and they already love the land of their adoption.

WILLIAM H. LOCKERBY.

It has been a noticeable fact in the history of the world that the lawyer has figured more prominently in public life than the representative of any other profession or business. The reason for this is obvious and requires no explanation, for the qualities which fit one for the successful practice of law also prepare him for the understanding of the intricate questions which involve the welfare of state and nation. Practicing at the bar of Quincy and Branch county Mr. Lockerby has won a notable position as a strong and earnest lawyer and his fitness for leadership has led to his selection for public offices, including that of state senator, from which he retired in 1905 after a four years' term.

Mr. Lockerby was born in West Vienna, Oneida county, New York, February 24, 1859. His father, John Lockerby, was born in Scotland, in July, 1837, and is now living in Quincy. He came to the United States when three years of age with his parents, David and Mary Lockerby, and

located in West Vienna, New York. His educational privileges were limited. He attended school at West Vienna for a brief period and afterward gained some familiarity with the trade of boat building, but his principal occupation was that of farming. He came to Michigan in 1869, and settled in Quincy township, purchasing a tract of timber land on section four. He at once began to cut away the trees and clear away the brush, thus preparing the fields for cultivation. As the years passed he advanced from an humble financial position to one of affluence. In 1890 his health failed and he purchased a home in Quincy and retired to private life. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, affiliates with the Masonic fraternity and gives his political allegiance to the Democracy. His life has been in consistent harmony with upright principles and he has gained and retained the respect and good will of his fellow-men. He married Miss Flavia Hollenbeck, who was born in Oneida county, New York, in 1840, and is still living. Her father, Cornelius Hollenbeck, was of Holland extraction and was a farmer by occupation. Mrs. Lockerby was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. They had two children, William H. and Harriet, the latter dying at the age of seventeen years.

W. H. Lockerby pursued his education in the district schools and the public schools of Quincy, but studied largely at home. He afterward engaged in teaching school for five years, and he began reading law with M. D. Campbell, of Coldwater, as his preceptor. He was admitted to the bar there December 14, 1884, and worked in the office of his preceptor for a year afterward, at the end of which time he opened an office in Bronson. After a brief period, however, he returned to Quincy and formed a partnership with Milo Campbell, which continued for a year. He has since been alone in practice and has a large clientage, distinctively representative in character. He practices in all of the courts of the state, and was admitted to the federal courts in 1902.

In September, 1882, Mr. Lockerby was married to Miss Cora Gorball, a daughter of Ezekiel and Catherine Gorball, of Girard, Michigan. Her father, a farmer by occupation, was one of the pioneer settlers of Branch county, coming from England to America at an early epoch in the history of this part of Michigan. His daughter, Mrs. Lockerby, was born in Girard, March 6, 1865, and by her marriage has become the mother of three children: Carroll J., who was born in June, 1883, and died in June, 1890; Metha, born February 18, 1888; and Marjorie, who was born September 3, 1899, and died in September, 1901. Mrs. Lockerby is a member of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Lockerby has taken the various degrees of the Masonic fraternity and belongs to the Grange. He is recognized as one of the prominent representatives of the county and has filled various local offices, having been school inspector, township clerk and a member of the Branch county board of school examiners for five years. He was also circuit court commissioner for four years and was appointed by Governor Rich a member of the railroad and street crossing board, serving for four years, and during that entire time acted as its secretary. Still higher political honors awaited him, for he was chosen by popular suffrage

to the office of state senator and was a member from 1901 until 1905. While in the general assembly he was connected with important legislation and was a stalwart champion of many movements and measures which he believed would promote the welfare of the commonwealth. He is public-spirited and progressive to an eminent degree and has the warm friendship and regard of many of the leading men of the state, while in his home town he is popular, no man having a more favorable acquaintance than William H. Lockerby.

HORACE J. WOODWARD.

Horace J. Woodward, the oldest dry goods merchant in years of continued business in Coldwater, is a native of New Hampshire, his birth having occurred in the village of Swiftwater, Grafton county, on the 24th of April, 1836. His parents were Myron S. and Caroline (Hutchins) Woodward, representatives of old and prominent New England families. The father was a merchant in Swiftwater and it was in his store that the son gained his first mercantile experience. In the schools of his native town and in the seminaries of Bath village and Newberry Mr. Woodward gained a fair literary education that well equipped him for the practical and responsible duties that came to him in after life.

In the spring of 1856 he was united in marriage to Miss Eliza J. Pierce, also a native of the Green Mountain state, and in December of the same year Mr. Woodward and his young wife came to Coldwater, Michigan. On reaching this place he learned there was a vacancy in what is now known as the Central school, the former teacher having become ill. He made application for the position and his eligibility secured him appointment to fill the vacancy. He then taught until the close of the school year in the following spring, ending his labors there as an educator on Friday, and on the succeeding Monday he became a salesman in the store of Gilbert & Barber. This firm was soon succeeded by George C. Stone and Mr. Woodward remained in his employ until the spring of 1861, when he joined J. Wesley Brown, a fellow-clerk, and Mr. Gilbert, his former employer, in the formation of a partnership and the establishment of a dry goods business under the firm style of Woodward, Brown & Company. Mr. Woodward went to New York city and purchased a stock of goods, which had not yet been shipped when Fort Sumter was fired upon and the country was precipitated in the Civil war. The future of the new business concern in Coldwater looked dark under the circumstances, but the partners persevered in their undertakings. Eventually the goods which had been purchased were received, and on account of the war prices went up and the firm secured a handsome profit on their investment. Mr. Woodward said that purchase proved the best he has ever made in his extended career as a merchant. The firm of Woodward, Brown & Company, however, had a brief existence, for on account of failing health Mr. Brown sold his interest and withdrew and not long afterward Mr. Gilbert also withdrew.

Julius S. Barber then became associated with Mr. Woodward in the ownership and conduct of the store, under the firm style of Woodward,

Barber & Company. This had a continuous existence of nearly seventeen years, becoming the leading dry goods store of Coldwater. The uncle, Mr. Barber, however, disposed of his interest in the meantime, and in 1877 Mr. Woodward and Mr. Barber mutually agreed to divide the stock and sever their business relations. Mr. Woodward then rented the store which he now occupies, but he has since purchased the property and has here continued business to the present time, covering a period of twenty-eight years. Soon after the time he went to himself he associated his son, Harry P. Woodward, with him under the firm style of H. J. Woodward & Son, and they have for years enjoyed a large and satisfactory trade, their house being accounted one of the leading and substantial dry goods firms of southern Michigan, while Mr. Woodward ranks as the oldest dry goods merchant of the city of Coldwater in point of continued business. He has paid close attention to his mercantile interests, and this combined with his splendid business ability and the able assistance of his son has made the enterprise a very profitable one. His methods, too, have ever been reliable and trustworthy, conforming to a high standard of commercial ethics.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Woodward were born three children, to each of whom they have given splendid educational advantages; Lella G., the eldest daughter, is an art teacher of rare ability, and is now in charge of the art department at Stanley Hall, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Belle R., the second daughter, is the wife of John T. Starr, of Coldwater. The only son, Harry P. Woodward, is associated with his father in business and is also prominent in commercial circles here. Mrs. Woodward is a most estimable lady of culture and refinment, presiding graciously over her hospitable home. Mr. Woodward has never sought political preferment, nor has he been connected with business interests outside of his store. He has, however, always manifested a spirit of public enterprise and has contributed materially to the upbuilding of the beautiful little city of Coldwater. His home is one of the most magnificent residences here and is modern and attractive in all of its appointments. In church relations he has long been an Episcopalian, and both he and his wife are held in highest esteem by a wide circle of friends.

GEORGE E. WILLIS.

G. E. Willis, well known as a representative and prosperous agriculturist of Batavia township, his home being on section twenty-one, was born in Portage county, Ohio, on the 17th of November, 1858. His father, George Willis, was also born in Portage county, Ohio, and in May, 1863, he arrived in Branch county, Michigan, settling in Batavia township, where he gave his attention to milling and farming, conducting a sawmill for about thirty-five years. His life was characterized by business integrity and activity, so that at his death, which occurred when he was seventy-eight years of age, he left to his family an untarnished name. In politics he was always a Democrat. He married Miss Jane Welch, a native of Ohio, who died in Branch county, Michigan, at the age of fifty-six years. They had a daughter and son, the former being Alma, now the wife of C. L. Olds, who is represented on another page of this work.

G. E. Willis, the younger and the only son of the family, was about eight years of age when he came to Branch county with his parents, and here he was reared and educated, spending his boyhood days in the usual manner of farm lads, who divide their time between the work of the fields, the duties of the schoolroom and the pleasures of the playground. He remained with his parents, assisting on the farm and in the mill, until his marriage, which was celebrated in 1877, Miss Carrie Wilcox becoming his wife. She was born in New York and came to Branch county when thirteen years of age with her parents, Monroe and Melissa Wilcox.

Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Willis took up their abode upon the old farm homestead on section fifteen, Batavia township, and there he engaged in farming and milling until 1905, when he removed to his present home on section twenty-one. He has here eighty acres of land which he rents. The place is well improved and the rental brings him a good annual income.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Willis was born a daughter, Fern, who is now the wife of Dr. W. P. Mowry, of Batavia, where he is engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery. Mr. Willis regards it the duty as well as the privilege of every citizen to support the political principles which he deems will prove of greatest benefit to the country and he therefore gives his allegiance to the Democracy and takes an active interest in the local work of the party. He has served as township clerk for about four terms and has ever been loyal to the trust reposed in him. He is a member of the Masonic lodge at Coldwater and the Maccabees tent. He has been a resident of Batavia township for forty-two years, and is therefore largely familiar with its history. The years have brought changes, and in the work of improvement Mr. Willis has rejoiced, giving his co-operation to many measures for the general good. He possesses a friendly disposition and courteous manner and his good qualities have gained him a desirable place in the esteem for his fellow townsmen.

HENRY P. MOWRY, M. D.

For nearly thirty years a practicing physician of Bronson, Michigan, and during that time in various ways identified with the public interests of both town and county, Dr. Henry P. Mowry occupies a representative place among his fellow-citizens.

He was born in Ovid township, Branch county, Michigan, February 20, 1854, son of William P. and Emily C. (Dalton) Mowry, the former a native of Massachusetts who moved to Michigan at an early date and who still lives in Ovid township, and the latter, a native of Ohio, is deceased. He is one of a family of four sons, all residents of Michigan—William S., Charles C. and George D. His early education Dr. Mowry received in the public and high schools of Coldwater, and he took up the study of medicine in the office of Dr. J. M. Long, of that place, after which he entered Hahnemann Medical College, Chicago, of which institution he is a graduate with the class of 1877. Immediately following his graduation he began the practice of his profession at Bronson. Here he has continued up to the present time, with the exception of one year spent in St. Louis, where he delivered

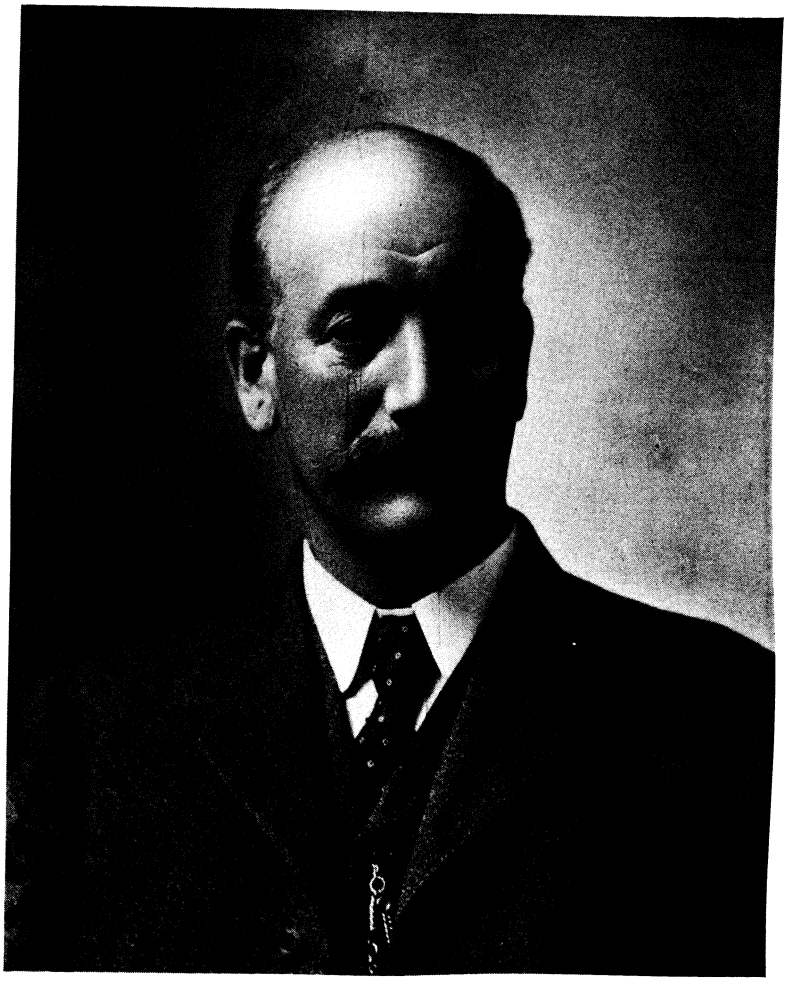
a course of lectures on his specialty, the eye and ear, in Henry Medical College.

Although giving close attention to his professional duties, Dr. Mowry has always manifested a deep interest in public affairs and has filled positions of prominence and trust. He was superintendent of the county poor for six years, filled the office of president of the board of trustees of Bronson, and is serving as a member of the state board of correction and charities, having received his appointment to this last named position at the hands of Governor Bliss in 1903. For two years he was surgeon of the pension board. As the result of his years of labor, a fair share of financial prosperity has come to the doctor. He has a handsome home at the corner of Walker and Chicago streets; owns two farms, renting one and himself superintending the operation of the other; and is interested in the banking business, being president of the Burr Oak State Bank.

He married, in 1877, Miss Alice M. Park, daughter of James R. Park, of Ovid township, and they are the parents of two sons, William P. and Lloyd. The older son, following in the footsteps of his father, is a graduate of Hahnemann Medical College, Chicago, and is now engaged in the practice of medicine at Sturgis, Michigan. Politically, Dr. Mowry has always affiliated with the Republican party. Fraternally he is identified with both the Masons and the Odd Fellows, being a member of the Knight Templars No. 10, of Coldwater, and Bronson Lodge No. 227, I. O. O. F.

MARK H. MANN.

Mark H. Mann is one of the native sons of Girard township, having been born on the 28th of April, 1854, upon the old family homestead in section twenty-two. The Manns were among the early settlers of Girard and the family comes originally from German ancestry. The great-grandfather was the founder of the family in the new world and on crossing the Atlantic from Germany took up his abode in Schoharie county in 1711. Jacob W. Mann, the grandfather of our subject, was born in Schoharie, New York, February 13, 1789, and with his wife, Mrs. Polly Mann, came to Girard township, Branch county, in 1836. Here he entered some land from the government and also made purchase of an additional tract and developing a farm he spent his remaining days thereon. The usual hardships and experiences of pioneer life were to be met, for at that early day few settlements had been made in the county. The land was wild and unimproved and there were long distances between the homes of those who had made their way to the frontier. With characteristic energy, however, Mr. Mann began the development of his farm and actively continued its cultivation until his death, which occurred on the 19th of September, 1846. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Polly Shannon, was a daughter of George and Mary Shannon, also natives of Schoharie county, New York, and there her birth occurred on the 1st of March, 1798. She gave her hand in marriage to Jacob W. Mann in her native county and they became the parents of eight children, six sons and two daughters. Of this family two sons and a daughter also remained residents of Girard township until called from this life.



W. H. Mann

Peter I. Mann, son of Jacob W. Mann, was born in Schoharie county, New York, February 27, 1815, and was about twenty-one years of age when the family home was established in Michigan. He attended the public schools of his native state and was early trained to the labors of the farm, so that he had intimate knowledge of the best methods of tilling the fields and caring for stock when he began life on his own account. He remained upon the old homestead in this county until twenty-six years of age and amid the environments of pioneer life aided his father in his agricultural work.

On the 13th of January, 1842, Mr. Mann was joined in wedlock to Miss Lavina Grove, a daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Putnam) Grove, who were also pioneer residents of Batavia township. They became the parents of eight children, of whom three died in infancy, while Nina died in 1880 at the age of sixteen years. Those still living are: Mrs. Mary Williams, a resident of Girard township; Jacob W., of the same township; Mrs. Belinda Hurst, of Coldwater; and Mark H., of this review. Mr. and Mrs. Peter I. Mann began their domestic life upon a farm and continued to reside there for many long years, Mr. Mann being closely identified with the agricultural development of the county. He lived here when it was largely an unsettled district. Indians still visited the neighborhood in the early days and there were wild animals in the forest, while considerable wild game was killed and furnished many a meal to the early settlers. Mr. Mann aided in reclaiming the district for the purposes of civilization. He was at one time the owner of four hundred acres of very valuable land, which he cleared, cultivated and improved, and he long ranked with the most enterprising and capable farmers of his locality. His political allegiance was given to the Republican party and he was a prominent Mason, having attained the Knight Templar degree in Coldwater Commandery. Both he and his wife reached an advanced age, Mr. Mann passing away on the 8th of January, 1897, while his wife died on the 7th of October, 1890.

Mark H. Mann spent the days of his boyhood and youth in his parents' home and early became familiar with the work of field and meadow, for during the summer months he aided in turning the furrows, planting the seed and eventually in harvesting the crops. In the winter season he attended the public schools and thus acquired a good practical education that has enabled him to successfully cope with life's duties. He was married March 5, 1886, and has one son, Rex Mann, who was born in 1887 and is at home. The son graduated in the public schools of Girard township in the class of 1904. He has entered as a student in the Coldwater High School, and is progressing in his studies.

Mr. Mann is now the owner of one hundred and forty acres of choice land in Girard township, on which stands a handsome brick residence built in modern style of architecture. There are also other large and substantial buildings upon the place and his farm is one of the best improved properties in the neighborhood. In all of his work he is practical and progressive, carrying forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes. He, too, is prominent in Masonry, belonging to the various organizations of the craft in Coldwater, including Jacob's Commandery, K. T., Like the others of

the family he has assisted materially in the development and progress of this part of the state, and his co-operation can always be counted upon to further any movement for the public good.

ABRAM JOSEPH ALDRICH.

Abram Joseph Aldrich, one of the oldest native residents of Branch county, was born in Girard township, February 3, 1843, and was the only child of William and Phoebe Jane (Ransom) Aldrich. The father was born in Macedon, Wayne county, New York, July 26, 1811, and was a son of Abram Aldrich, a native of Upton, Worcester county, Massachusetts, born December 3, 1775. He was married in his native state, whence he removed at an early day to Macedon, New York. In 1832 he came to what was then the territory of Michigan, being one of the first settlers within the present borders of Union township, Branch county. He entered a tract of land from the government, cleared and developed a farm and also erected and operated a saw and grist mill near what is now the town of Hodunk. These were the first mills in this section of the county and people came there from a long distance. Mr. Aldrich spent the remainder of his days here, contributing in substantial measure to the pioneer development and aided in laying the foundation for the present progress and prosperity of the county. He was reared in the Society of Friends, but subsequently became a Methodist and died in that religious faith. On the 17th of February, 1801, he married Sophronia Legg, who was born in Orange county, Massachusetts, August 7, 1777, and died in Girard township, Branch county, December 30, 1837, while Mr. Aldrich survived her until April 8, 1842. They were the parents of nine children, of whom William Aldrich was the sixth.

William Aldrich came to Branch county in 1832, settling in Girard township, where he also entered land from the government. He engaged in farming and was the partner of his father in the ownership of the Orangeville mills. He became identified with the Methodist church in early life, but later espoused Presbyterian doctrines. In politics he was a Democrat, and was one of the first justices of the peace in Girard township. His interest in public affairs was deep and sincere and he became a co-operant factor in many measures which had direct benefit upon the improvement and upbuilding of the county. He was first married in 1836 to Miss Betsy Fisk, a native of New York, but she survived her marriage only a brief period. In 1838 he wedded Miss Phoebe J. Ransom, who was born in Lloyd, Ulster county, New York, August 4, 1813, and departed this life in the city of Coldwater, November 26, 1877. She was a consistent Christian, holding membership in the Presbyterian church, and she long survived her husband, whose death occurred August 26, 1850.

Abram J. Aldrich, when seven years of age, was brought to the city of Coldwater by his widowed mother and here he grew to manhood, attended the city schools, and afterward entered the literary department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, where he was graduated with the class of 1865, the degree of Bachelor of Arts being at that time con-

ferred upon him, while three years later his alma mater honored him with the Master of Arts degree. In the spring of 1866, accompanied by his mother, he returned to the old homestead farm in Girard township, and for seven years was actively engaged in agricultural pursuits. In 1873, in connection with his father-in-law, he purchased the Coldwater Republican, which they published under the firm name of A. J. Aldrich & Company, and at that time Mr. Aldrich again took up his abode in Coldwater. He was interested in the Republican and ably edited the paper until 1893, when he sold out. He was a clear and forceful writer and won more than local distinction as an editor. In 1886 he prepared and read before the State Press Association a paper entitled "Relation of the Newspaper to Politics." It attracted much attention and received favorable comment from the press throughout the country. In the same year Mr. Aldrich was honored by an election to the presidency of the State Press Association.

He cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1864, and from that time has loyally supported the principles of the Republican party. Although he has never sought office he was for years active in political work and while editor of the Republican his pen materially influenced matters of politics and other questions of public concern. He was an ardent and able supporter of the civil service and his editorials on that issue attracted wide attention. When twenty years of age he became a member of the Presbyterian church, and has been an active worker of the denomination through many years, while for a long period he has served as ruling elder.

Mr. Aldrich was married in 1870 to Miss Clarissa Stearns, a daughter of George W. Stearns, deceased, of whom mention is made above. She was born in Gorham, Ontario county, New York, October 24, 1842, and like her husband holds membership with the Presbyterian church. They have two children, namely: Mabel A., the wife of Stanley C. Griffin, state agent of the state public schools; and William Irving Aldrich, who resides at Chanute, Kansas.

GEORGE W. STEARNS.

George W. Stearns, now deceased, was born in the town of Gorham, Ontario county, New York, May 14, 1821. His father, Royal Stearns, was a native of Upton, Worcester county, Massachusetts, and was a son of Ebenezer Stearns, who it is thought was a native of England. He was a farmer by occupation and his last years were spent in Upton.

Royal Stearns was reared to manhood in his native town, whence he emigrated to New York state, and after his marriage he purchased a section of timber land in Ontario county, New York, building thereon a log cabin, in which the birth of our subject occurred and in which the father continued to make his home until his death. He was a public-spirited citizen, served as captain of the State Militia and was noted for his industry and integrity of character. The maiden name of his wife was Anna Mapes, and she was born in Coxsackie, New York, her father being Israel Mapes, who at an early day was a slave-holder of the Empire state, having his negro bondsmen until slavery was abolished in New York. He afterward

engaged in the hotel and lumber business and his last years were spent in Mendon, Monroe county, New York, where his death occurred. For her second husband the mother of our subject married Joshua Hicks, with whom she removed to Macedon, Wayne county, New York, where she resided until the death of Mr. Hicks, when she returned to the old homestead in Gorham and died there October 16, 1875. Unto her first marriage there were born seven children.

George W. Stearns, the sixth in order of birth in this family, resided with his married sister in Ontario county, New York, after his father's death, and when his mother was left a widow the second time he returned to the old homestead, carrying on farming there for several years. He came to Coldwater, Branch county, Michigan, in 1867, and continued to reside in this city throughout his remaining days, passing away in 1892. In 1873, in connection with his son-in-law, A. J. Aldrich, he purchased the Coldwater Republican and was interested in its publication until his demise.

While still residing in his native county Mr. Stearns was married, October 31, 1841, to Miss Miranda Tufts, who was born in Gorham, New York, February 5, 1819, a daughter of Thomas and Clarissa (Hatfield) Tufts. Her death occurred in Coldwater when she was eighty-one years of age. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Stearns were born two children: Clarissa Arminda, the wife of A. J. Aldrich; and Irving Ariel, a resident of Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania.

In New York Mr. and Mrs. Stearns held membership in the Congregational church, but in Coldwwater, where there was no organization of that denomination, they attended the Presbyterian church. He cast his first presidential vote for James K. Polk and was one of seven men who met in Gorham and organized a section of the Republican party. From that time he was an ardent supporter of the men and measures of the new political organization.

OLIVER J. CLARK.

A worthy descendant of one of the oldest families and first settlers in this part of Branch county, the gentleman named above still resides upon the farm in Kinderhook township which was first settled upon by his father over sixty years ago, and which has ever since remained in possession of the family. His father was Timothy Clark and his mother was Sarah Jane Mills, both worthy examples of the brave pioneers who subdued the virgin forests of Branch county and made homes here for themselves and their descendants. Timothy Clark was born in Broadalbin, New York, March 30, 1819, and when only thirteen years old he accompanied his father, Samuel Clark, to Michigan, coming here in 1837 when the country was wholly new. They first located in Hillsdale county, where Samuel Clark died in 1841. In 1842 Timothy Clark bought a farm in Kinderhook township, and a few years thereafter he took possession of the same, adding to his property until he finally became the owner of over three hundred acres. He was married, October 9, 1846, to Sarah Jane Mills, who was born in Berkshire, Massachusetts, May 24, 1818, her parents being Alson Mills and

Sarah Dupee, natives of Connecticut, where they passed their entire lives. Sarah Jane Mills passed her early life in Massachusetts, and when nineteen years of age she went to live with a sister in the state of New York, afterward coming to Michigan, where she met and married Mr. Clark. The young couple finally located on their new farm in Kinderhook township in the late forties, and here they found plenty of hard work for their willing hands. The land was uncleared and without buildings when they came, but they set resolutely to work, and before many years the results of their labors showed in a comfortable home, with much of the land cleared, buildings erected and a family of children growing up. The children were five in number, as follows: Phoebe died at the age of thirteen years; Harriet married Elmer Boyd and died in Gilead, this county; Oliver J. is the subject of this review; Etta Van Etta lives in Kinderhook; Ellen M., the youngest, is the wife of Sherman Jones, of Coldwater township. The father, Timothy Clark, died January 8, 1894, while the mother passed away in November, 1899.

Our subject, Oliver J. Clark, was born in Kinderhook, March 15, 1855, and he has always lived here. He grew to manhood upon his father farm, which he helped to clear of timber, he also assisting in all of the other many improvements. July 12, 1873, he was united in marriage with Eliza Whitcomb, who was born in this township December 23, 1857. Her father was Samuel A. Whitcomb, who was born March 4, 1815, and her mother was Anna Mugg, whose birth occurred July 24, 1830. They were married February 11, 1855, and were the parents of eleven children, only three of whom are now living: Eliza Clark, wife of our subject; Thomas Whitcomb, who also lives in this township; and Helen Cornish, who is a resident of Hillsdale county, Michigan. Their parents, Samuel A. Whitcomb and Anna Mugg Whitcomb, were among the earlier residents of this part of Branch county, where they were known as people of high standing. Mr. Whitcomb died here April 10, 1885, while Mrs. Whitcomb's death occurred May 4, 1872. The paternal grandparents of Mrs. Clark were also early residents of Branch county, her grandfather being Samuel Whitcomb, born June 7, 1778, and her grandmother being Nancy Jacob Whitcomb, who was born December 11, 1790. They were for many years esteemed residents of Coldwater.

Eleven children have been born unto Mr. and Mrs. Oliver J. Clark, all but two of whom have grown to manhood and womanhood. They are as follows: Eddie died February 28, 1875. Fred T. married Eva Tuthill and they live in Kinderhook. Estella M. married Otis Spade and their home is in Coldwater; they have two children, Clark and Bessie. S. U. Clark married Esther Banker and their home is at Youngstown, Ohio. Grace A. is the wife of Harlie Strong and their home is in this township; they have two children, Clyde and Edith Eliza. Gertrude J. is the wife of Levi Clearwater and they live in Kinderhook. Bessie died February 22, 1892. Samuel W., Merl, Byron J. and Rachel Louise live at home with their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark have reared their children carefully and have

given them excellent advantages in the way of education. They now have the satisfaction of seeing five of them well established in life and with homes and families of their own, while the others are still with them at home. They have taken up the work laid aside by their parents and have made continuous improvements upon the large Clark farm, now comprising two hundred and fifty acres of fertile land. The place is supplied with excellent buildings and all the necessary accessories for successful agricultural operation, and the whole makes one of the fine farm homes of this part of Branch county. He is making a specialty of the O. I. C. hogs, and has been successful in this line.

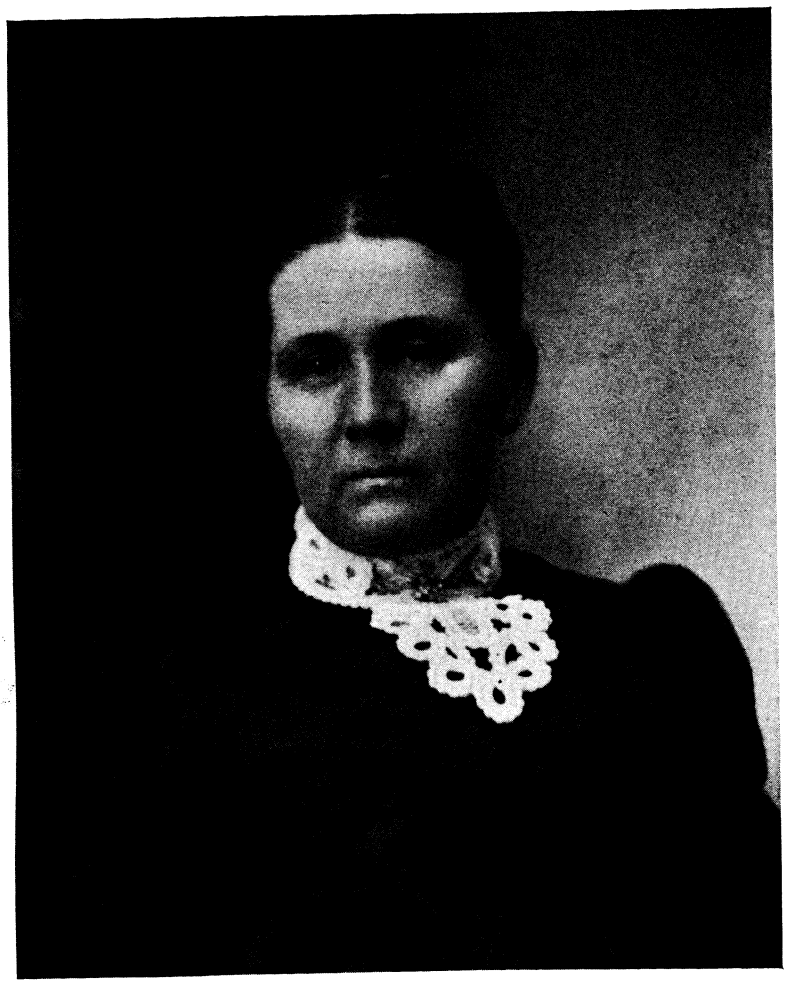
Mr. Clark is a Democrat politically and fraternally he is affiliated with the Blue Lodge Masons, in which he has held the leading offices, he having been worshipful master, senior warden and junior warden. Mr. and Mrs. Clark are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Waterhouse Corners.

OLNEY W. DRAPER.

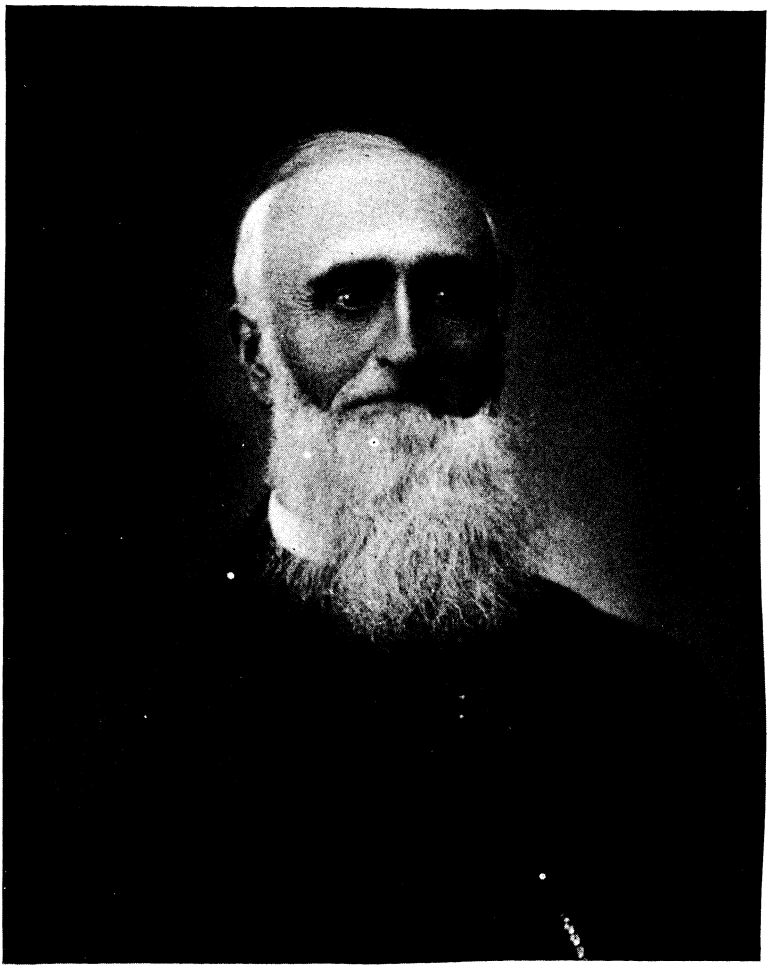
Olney W. Draper, an honored veteran of the Civil war, who represents farming interests of Branch county, his home being on section thirty-four, Algansee township, was born in North Fairfield, Ohio, December 11, 1838. His father, Reuben Draper, was a native of Vermont, and removed to the state of New York with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Draper, when in his boyhood days. He was descended from New England ancestry, which was represented in the Revolutionary war, and a brother, Nathaniel Draper, was a soldier of the war of 1812 and died on the day when his term of service expired, March 2, 1813.

Reuben Draper was reared to the occupation of farming in the Empire state, and after his marriage he came to Michigan with his wife and family, arriving in Branch county, in 1853. He then purchased one hundred and twelve acres of land from a speculator who had entered this from the government, the farm being on section thirty-four, Algansee township, where his son Olney now resides. As the years passed by he became a well-to-do and prosperous farmer, his success resulting from his habits of industry, economy and well directed perseverance. He was also a man of upright principles, his life being in harmony with a high standard of ethics, and although not connected in membership relations with any church he was a student of the Bible and closely followed its precepts in his relations with his fellowman. He married Rebecca Olney, who was born in Cayuga county, New York, in 1804, and was also descended from New England ancestry. Her death occurred in 1883, while Mr. Draper passed away in 1894. They were the parents of four children: Jane, living in California township, is the widow of Orrin Whitten, who was a mechanic; Ruhameh, deceased; David, who died in 1890, at the age of fifty-six years, was a farmer by occupation and at the time of the Civil war enlisted in 1863 in the Fourth Michigan Infantry, with which he served until the close of hostilities. He lost a finger by a gunshot wound in the battle of the Wilderness.

Olney W. Draper, the youngest member of the family, was a student in the district schools in his early boyhood and afterward continued his studies



Mrs. Lucy Draper



O. W. Draper

at Reading, Michigan. He engaged in teaching school for six years, and throughout his business career has devoted his energies to farming. He was twenty-six years of age when, in 1864, he responded to his country's call for troops, enlisting in the First Michigan Sharpshooters, with which he served until the close of the war, the regiment being assigned to the Army of the Potomac, and was the first to plant a flag in Petersburg on the capitulation of that city. The command also participated in the siege of Richmond and other important movements in that section of the country, and when the war was over Mr. Draper was mustered out at Detroit with the rank of orderly sergeant.

Returning to his home he resumed the occupation of farming, to which he has always given his time and energies, now living upon the old homestead farm, of which his father became owner more than a half century ago. He was married, in 1873, to Miss Lucy Slater, who was born in Fremont, Ohio, October 23, 1850, and was left an orphan in early girlhood. There is but one child of this marriage, Lorin H., who was born September 9, 1874, and married Mary Hungerford, a daughter of Henry and Sophia Hungerford, of Algansee. There are four children of this union, Harold, Kenneth, Donald and Dessie Marie. The parents are members of the Congregational church, in which Mr. Draper has long served as deacon. He belongs to Quincy post, G. A. R., and has been an earnest Republican since casting his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln. In the office of township clerk for eight years he proved his loyalty to the public welfare, and for seven terms he has served as a member of the board of supervisors. He made a creditable military record and his record in days of peace is equally commendable.

JAMES THERON TOMPKINS.

All through the history of the township of Girard the name of Tompkins stands out prominently from the earliest period to the present, and the descendants of James B. and Eliza Ames Tompkins, who were among the very first settlers of this section, are still counted with the prominent and esteemed residents of the township. Among these is the subject of this sketch, James Theron Tompkins, who occupies one of the handsomest farm homes in this vicinity, the same being located upon section fifteen of Girard. The farm comprises three hundred and seventy-five acres of fertile farming land, while the buildings are modern, commodious structures, and the whole forms a rural residence and property of an extent and character seldom seen, even in this section of prosperity and plenty.

J. Theron Tompkins was born in Girard, December 27, 1845, his father being James B. Tompkins and his mother Eliza Ames. The father was born in Schoharie county, New York, June 28, 1804, where his early life was passed. Seeking the opportunities of the west, he came to Michigan in the fall of 1830, arriving at Tecumseh, where he remained until July of the following year, spending a goodly portion of this time in surveying the then unbroken wilderness. He then made his way to Branch county and located in the township of Girard, which was to be his home for the remainder of his life. Here he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on sections

fifteen and twenty-two, and in later years he acquired a large acreage in various parts of the township. Here he made his home, and here he early made his influence felt in the community and county. Early in the year of 1832 he returned to Tecumseh and married Eliza Ames, the fifth child in a family of twelve children, their parents being William Ames and Polly Brownell, natives of Vermont, where Eliza was born in the town of Colchester, Chittenden county, March 3, 1813. William Ames was born August 18, 1777, and was a member of the Ames family which gave many prominent citizens to the United States. He died April 4, 1840.

James and Eliza Ames Tompkins immediately returned to Girard after their marriage. The township was not then the blooming and fertile country now seen here. Instead there was an almost unbroken wilderness, while bands of the Pottowatomie Indians made this their favorite stopping place. The young couple braved the many privations and hardships incident to pioneer life, and they made for themselves a comfortable home and raised a large family of children. Three of these children died in infancy, Martin died at the age of twenty years, Emma Tompkins Vanderlip is also deceased, and William A. Tompkins died July 13, 1905. Those still living are J. Theron Tompkins, Francis J. Tompkins and Mrs. Adaline Tompkins Granger, all of Girard. Mr. Tompkins was a competent surveyor, and during the earlier years of his residence here his services were in almost constant demand. He was the first supervisor of Girard township when it was organized in 1834, and he served his townsmen in that capacity for sixteen years. He also filled nearly every other township office repeatedly and represented his county in the state legislature in 1854. His life was filled with good works, and his death, which occurred August 1, 1879, was deeply deplored. His wife, who was beloved by scores of relatives and hundreds of warm personal friends, lived to a good old age, retaining her faculties to the last and passing away December 6, 1902, when nearly ninety years old.

The subject of this sketch, J. Theron Tompkins, has passed nearly his entire life in Girard township, where he is known as a man of property and influence. He was married October 3, 1869, to Hattie Olney, daughter of Jesse Olney and Betsy Fox, these names also being intimately associated with the history of Girard township for many years. Jesse Olney was the son of Thomas Olney, while Betsy Fox Olney was the daughter of Lyman Fox, both of whom were pioneers of this section. Jesse Olney died in Girard in 1874, his widow passing away a few years later.

To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Tompkins have been born four children, three sons and one daughter, but one is deceased: Harry B. completed the public schools, and is a practical farmer. He is a member of the Tompkins orchestra, so well known in Girard and surrounding townships. His favorite instrument is B flat cornet. J. Roy finished the tenth grade and received his diploma from the public schools in the class of 1901. He is a member of the orchestra and a trombonist. Hazel E., finished the tenth grade in the public schools and received her diploma in the class of 1904. She was a student in the Chicago Musical College in 1904 and 1905, being a student on the violin and piano, having also taught both instruments.

HON. ALFRED MILNES.

Hon. Alfred Milnes, ex-member of the state senate and of congress, president of the National Burial Device Company and of the Ideal Fixture Company, has been and is distinctively a man of affairs and one who has wielded a wide influence in business circles and public life in Branch county. His activity has touched along many lines and has ever been exerted along modern lines of progress, becoming a resultant factor for successful accomplishment in the field of commerce and of politics.

Mr. Milnes was born in Bradford, Yorkshire, England, May 28, 1844, a son of Henry and Mary (Amyss) Milnes. The parents emigrated to America with their family of four sons in 1854, settling in Salt Lake City, Utah, where they remained for five years, when they removed to Newton, Iowa. The year 1861 witnessed their arrival in Coldwater, Michigan. They reached this city on the 28th of May, the seventeenth anniversary of the birth of Alfred Milnes, who has since been a resident of Coldwater. The following year, however, he left home, enlisting on the 30th of June, 1862, as a private of Company C, Seventeenth Michigan infantry, for a term of three years or during the war. He took part in all the engagements of his command from the battle of Antietam to that of Appomattox, and was mustered out on the 7th of June, 1865, having done his full duty as a soldier. He was then but twenty-one years of age, but no veteran of twice his years displayed greater loyalty or bravery upon the field of battle. Since the organization of the Grand Army of the Republic he has been interested and active in its work, holding membership with Butterworth Post, No. 109, in which he is a past commander. He is in hearty sympathy with the purposes and plans of the fraternity and delights in recounting around the camp fires the scenes which occurred on the tented fields of the south.

Mr. Milnes had acquired a fair education prior to the war, putting aside his text-books in order to enlist. Following his return home he became a clerk in his father's store and was thus engaged until 1871, when he opened a grocery store in Coldwater, which he conducted successfully until 1898, having a liberal patronage that brought to him gratifying financial returns.

While thus an active factor in the commercial life of the city Mr. Milnes also took an active part in political work as an advocate of Republican principles. His first political office was that of alderman, and he has twice served as mayor of the city, becoming an effective force for needed reform and improvement. In 1888 he was elected to the state senate and by re-election served for two terms, or four consecutive years. In 1891 he was the recognized leader of his party, then in its minority, and he instituted into political methods the principles and plans which had made him a successful business man, organizing his forces so as to produce results and win victories. In 1894 he was elected lieutenant governor of Michigan, but in June, 1895, resigned, having been elected to congress in the special election held that year to represent the third district of Michigan. He received the unanimous nomination of his party for the same office in 1896, but was defeated at the polls in the great Democratic landslide of that year. On the 4th of March,

1898, he was commissioned postmaster of Coldwater and served for four years, at the end of which time he declined to stand again for appointment. He is now one of the board of managers of the Soldiers' Home at Grand Rapids.

Mr. Milnes has business relations of importance, having been a director of the Branch County Savings Bank since its organization, and is also president of the National Burial Device Company, and of the Ideal Fixture Company. He is a valued representative of the Masonic fraternity, in which he has attained the Knight Templar degree, and he is equally prominent in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he has been very active for fifteen years, serving in the various offices of the local and grand lodges, while for two years he was a member of the sovereign grand lodge of the world. He belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen and to the Foresters, while his religious belief is indicated by his membership in the Episcopal church, of which he is senior warden.

Mr. Milnes was married, in 1868, to Miss Lucina E. Hill, of Quincy, Michigan, and they have had three children: Alfred C., who died in 1882; Maude L., who died in 1894; and Mabel F., now the wife of J. R. Watson, of Jackson, Georgia.

Such in outline is the history of Alfred Milnes, one of the best known men of Michigan, whose life record is inseparably interwoven with the annals of the state. He looks at the world from the standpoint of a practical business man, and while he is not without his ideals, toward which he earnestly strives, he has a clear understanding of conditions, possibilities and opportunities that makes him a man of action rather than theory. He has not only advocated views but has been an effective force, and in a review of the political records of the state one can say that this thing has been done by Mr. Milnes, that this legislative measure owes its existence to his work and influence. He has conserved public progress and the consensus of public opinion regarding his life work is uniformly favorable.

REV. EDWIN W. HUGHES.

Rev. Edwin W. Hughes, pastor of the Freewill Baptist church at Kinderhook and interested in general farming in Gilead township, where he owns and operates one hundred and eighty acres of land on sections eleven and twelve, was born in Lenawee county, Michigan, October 23, 1850, his parents being Thomas and Catherine (Bell) Hughes, both of whom were natives of county Down, Ireland. The father went from Ireland to Canada when twenty years of age, and was married in that country. He removed from Canada to Lenawee county, Michigan, prior to 1850 and early in the '50s came to Branch county, where he purchased eighty acres of land on sections one and two, Gilead township. Soon after his return to Lenawee county his death occurred, subsequent to which time the mother and children came to the new farm which he had purchased and located thereon. They cleared and developed the land and upon this place the mother reared her children unaided. She passed away May 21, 1895. In the family were ten children, of whom Hannah died at the age of thirteen years, while Henry,

the eldest, died at the age of thirty-three. Eight of the number are yet living, namely: Alexander R., a resident of Bethel township; Peter W., who is living in Los Angeles, California; John, whose home is in Kansas; Jacob B., of Kalamazoo; Mrs. Mary Sherman, of Bethel; Mrs. Abigail Bowen, of Coldwater; Mrs. Jennie Carpenter, of Gilead; and Edwin W., of this review.

In taking up the personal history of Rev. Edwin W. Hughes we present to our readers the life record of one widely known in Branch county, where his labors as an agriculturist and minister of the gospel have made him a prominent citizen and endeared him to many with whom he has come in contact. He started out in life on his own account when twenty years of age, and when a young man of twenty-two purchased eighty acres of land on section seven, Bethel township, which was partially improved. Later he disposed of that property and bought eighty acres on sections eleven and twelve, Bethel township, almost totally unimproved, which he has since increased by additional purchase to one hundred and eighty acres, his present home in Gilead. He cleared a part of this farm and has made all of the improvements thereon. There are good and substantial buildings and well kept fences, together with the latest improved machinery and all the accessories of a model farm. He is also a feeder and raiser of cattle, and at the present time is feeding a drove of the Aberdeens, which is one of the finest in the county of Branch. Mr. Hughes is a self-made man in every respect. He had only a common school education which he supplemented by home study and reading, and is now in possession of an excellent library, with the contents of which he is largely familiar. Although he has always followed farming he has also for fourteen years been a minister of the Freewill Baptist church, being ordained about 1890 by the faculty of Hillsdale College. He was pastor of the church at Center Chapel, Defiance county, Ohio, for several months, and for four years has been the pastor at Kinderhook. He has also filled other local appointments and is an able speaker, admired and esteemed by his parishioners. His family have been members of the Freewill Baptist church of Kinkerhook.

On the 20th of February, 1870, Rev. Hughes was married to Elizabeth Upp, who was born in Huron county, Ohio, November 19, 1850. Her father, Jacob Upp, was born in York, Pennsylvania, in 1822, and was taken by his parents to Huron county, Ohio, in 1830. There he married Susanna Croninger, who was born in Seneca county, Ohio. They had eight children: Mrs. Isabelle Gripman, Martin L., Mrs. Hannah Hilton, Mrs. Elizabeth Hughes, Phillip J., Mrs. Christie A. Hilton, Mrs. Alice Chase and Mrs. Susan Gager. The year 1854 witnessed the removal of the Upp family from Ohio to Branch county. They located in Kinderhook township, where Mr. Upp owned and developed three hundred acres of land. He was not long permitted to enjoy his new home, however, for his death occurred in 1858. Mrs. Upp afterward married again, her second husband being Alonzo Mosher.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hughes have been born five children, namely: Maude, who died at the age of four years; Ida May, the wife of E. G. Davis,

a resident of Petoskey, Michigan, by whom she has five children; Ruth, Marie, Fay, Edna and Evelyn; Carrie E., who married Fenton Flint, of Ovid, by whom she has a daughter, Blanche; Lola E., the wife of Dr. Benjamin Shepard of Plainwell, Michigan, by whom she has one son, Carlos; and Hugh L., who married Lula B. Keeslar and resides in Gilead township.

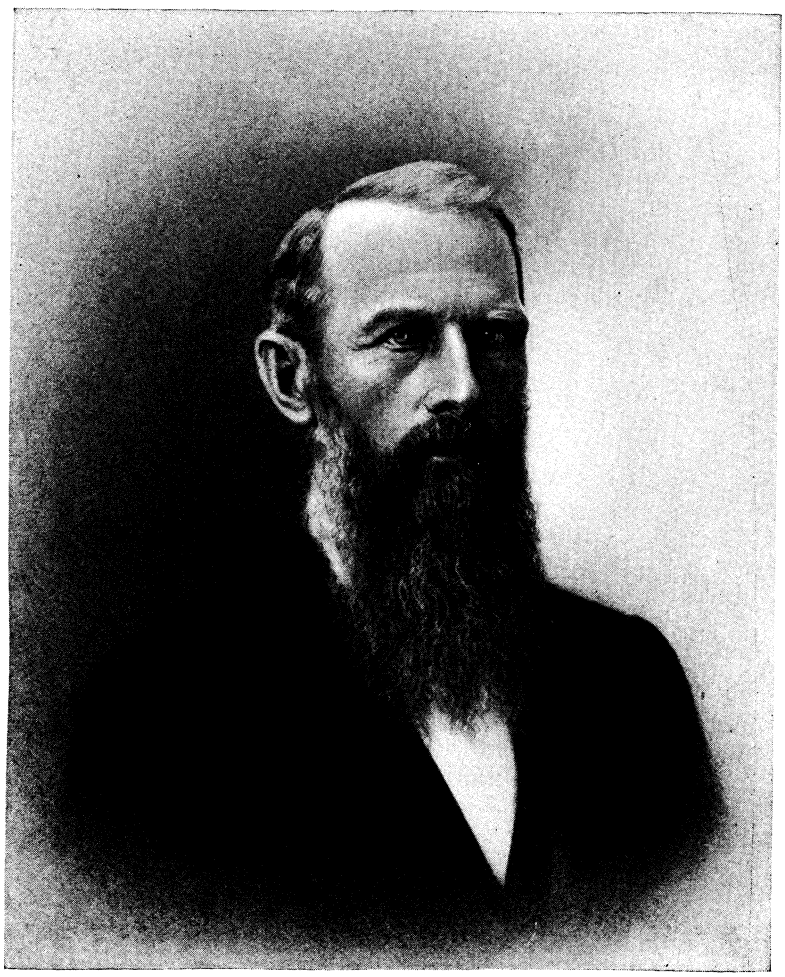
Rev. Hughes has spent the greater part of his life in Branch county, and his efforts in behalf of public progress and improvement have been of direct benefit, while his labors in the church have done much to advance the moral development of the community. He is a man whom to know is to respect and honor, for by example as well as by precept he has endeavored to teach the truths for which his church stands.

NATHANIEL PIATT.

Nathaniel Piatt, one of the self-made men of Branch county whose success has resulted entirely from his own able efforts, and whose example should serve as a course of inspiration and encouragement to others, was born in Warren county, New Jersey, May 27, 1826. His parents were William and Hannah (Tindall) Piatt, both of whom were natives of New Jersey, whence they removed in 1830 to Columbia county, Pennsylvania, and in 1835 they went to eastern Ohio. About sixteen years were there passed, and in 1852 they arrived in Elkhart county, Indiana. In their family were eight children who reached years of maturity, but only three of the number ever came to Michigan, namely: Nathaniel; William, who died in Cass county; and James A., who died in Isabella county. Nathaniel Piatt is the only one of the family now living. The father passed away in Elkhart county, Indiana, and the mother's death occurred in LaGrange county, that state. Both were esteemed people and were strong Methodists in religious faith.

Nathaniel Piatt started out in life on his own account in 1848. He had accompanied his parents on their various removals up to that time, and he preceded them in their removal to Elkhart county, Indiana, by a year. He first owned land in LaGrange county, Indiana, and in 1854 came to Michigan, where he purchased forty acres of land in Gilead township, Branch county. Later, however, he increased his holdings to one hundred and fifty-nine acres in Gilead and Bethel townships. The place was only partially cleared when it came into his possession, and he made all of the improvements thereon. He now owns sixty-eight acres on sections thirty-five and thirty-six in Bethel township. He started out in life unaided, with no capital save strong determination and willing hands, but he has accumulated property by hard work and is now in comfortable financial circumstances. He was a director of the Branch County Mutual Fire Insurance Company, with which organization he has been connected for many years, and in affairs in Gilead and Bethel townships he has been an active and influential factor, his labors proving of direct and immediate serviceableness in many connections.

Mr. Piatt was married in Holmes county, Ohio, January 25, 1848, to Miss Nancy Ritter, who was born in Mount Eaton, Wayne county, Ohio,



R. K. Tisdell

January 28, 1827. They had eight children. David Piatt, the eldest, who died in the state of California in 1886, married Patience Mabry and they had a son, George, who was born August 28, 1876, and who wedded Margaret Whaley, whose birth occurred August 2, 1882. This marriage was blessed with a daughter, Erta Marie, who was born November 26, 1902. George Piatt and his family now live with his grandfather, Nathaniel Piatt, upon the old home farm. Mrs. Melissa Patch, the second member of the family, lives in Coldwater. Mrs. Lucretia Balcom died in Seattle, Washington, in 1905. Franklin is living in the west. William Albert, a resident of South Dakota, married Mrs. Delilah Perrin and they have five children, namely: Charles, Orva, Rollin, Clyde and Eva. Mrs. Lucinda Benedict died in Chicago in 1898. Ella died in infancy. Mrs. Mattie Green is living in Seattle. The mother of this family departed this life September 29, 1875, and on the 2nd of September, 1876, Mr. Piatt was married to Mrs. A. P. Chapin, in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. She was a most active and interested worker in the church, at one time was connected with the Baptist denomination, but afterward with the Liberal United Brethren. She was a woman possessed of many sterling traits of character, and her death, which occurred in Bethel township, May 22, 1904, was the occasion of deep regret on the part of her many friends.

Mr. Piatt has traveled extensively through the west. He made the first trip in 1856 when there was one little railroad west of the Mississippi river. He now makes annual trips through to the coast and is well posted on the western country, its prospects and possibilities. In community affairs he has been actively and helpfully interested. He served as supervisor for three years, was drain commissioner one year and school officer for many years in Gilead and Bethel townships. Although not a member of any religious society, he is an earnest Christian and one of the chief supporters of the Liberal United Brethren church, being chairman of the building committee which erected Bethel church of that denomination. He has for many years been a member of Tyre lodge, F. & A. M., and was formerly an influential member of the Grange. He is still a well preserved man in spite of his years, having now reached the eightieth milestone on life's journey. His has been an active, useful and honorable career and Branch county has benefited by his efforts in her behalf.

HON. RODNEY K. TWADELL.

Hon. Rodney K. Twadell, whose activity in business was so continuous, whose co-operation in events of a beneficial public nature was so generous and whose personal worth was so widely recognized as to make his death come as a personal loss to a large majority of the citizens of Branch county, passed away on the 25th of January, 1900, when more than seventy-two years of age. His life was exemplary of all that constitutes the good and thereby truly great citizen. As the day with its morning of hope and promise, its noontide of activity, its evening of successful and accomplished effort ending in the grateful rest and quiet of the night, so was the life of this man, and his memory is enshrined in the hearts of many who knew him, while his life

record furnishes a splendid example for emulation and inspiration. Mr. Twadell was a native of Wayne county, New York, his birth having occurred in the town of Marion on the 7th of November, 1827. Little is known concerning the ancestral history of the family save that they came of Scotch lineage, the first representatives of the name having probably crossed the Atlantic while this country was still numbered among the colonial possessions of Great Britain. Daniel Twadell, father of Hon. Rodney K. Twadell, was born in Connecticut and at an early age was left an orphan. By self-sustaining effort he finally became a man not only of affluence but of influence as well in his community. In early manhood he removed from New England to Wayne county, New York, and, as his limited financial circumstances brought about the necessity for immediate employment, he secured a position as a farm hand. Gradually he worked his way upward until he was able to save from his earnings a sum sufficient to justify his purchase of land. He then began farming on his own account and successfully continued in that pursuit until 1849, when his life's labors were ended in death. He was at that time sixty-three years of age. In early manhood he was married in Wayne county, New New, to Mrs. Jerusha (Kellogg) Peckham, who was of New England birth and parentage and who, subsequent to the death of Mr. Twadell, came to Michigan, spending her last days in Branch county, where she died in 1870, at the age of seventy-seven years. By her first marriage she had two children and by the second six children. Of the latter family all reached years of maturity, after which the two daughters, Laura W. and Mary Jane, died of consumption. Those still living are: Mrs. Alma P. Howell, a resident of Wayne county, New York; Charles J. Twadell, who is living in Quincy, Michigan; and Mrs. Helen E. Culver, of Quincy.

Rodney K. Twadell spent his boyhood and youth upon a farm and acquired a common school education, devoting his attention to the work of the fields when not occupied with the duties of the school room, so that while improving his mind he also gained a good knowledge of the business which he made his life work. He was united in marriage in 1849 to Miss Mary Culver, a native of Palmira, New York, and a daughter of Paul and Martha Jane (Reeves) Culver, who removed to Michigan in 1849, and two years later were joined here by Mr. and Mrs. Twadell. There was one sister in the family, now Mrs. R. M. Campbell, of Quincy.

Mr. and Mrs. Twadell began their domestic life in the Empire state, but after two years, through the persuasion of her parents, came to Michigan. Being well pleased with the country and its future prospects Mr. Twadell then returned to New York to settle up some business affairs, after which he again came to Branch county and made a permanent location in Quincy township. He purchased one hundred acres of land on section five, northwest of the village of Quincy, to which he afterward added a tract of twenty acres, and the entire amount was still in his possession at the time of his death, although from 1883 until his demise he made his home in the village. In his farm work he was energetic and enterprising, his methods being practical, while his systematic labors and unremitting diligence constituted the basis of his success. He was never dilatory nor negligent in his work, and

he annually harvested rich crops as the reward for the care and labor which he bestowed upon his fields. He always exercised good judgment in the management of his farm affairs and brought his land under a high state of cultivation with correspondingly satisfactory financial results. His place was greatly enhanced by good buildings and pleasant surroundings and thus his became one of the model country homes of the township as well as the source of a handsome yearly income, which enabled Mr. Twadell to pass his declining days in ease and comfort. In addition to his farm property he owned a pleasant residence in the village of Quincy and the store building occupied by the firm of Trott & Clark. He also had some bank stock and was one of the stockholders of the Quincy Knitting Company.

In 1872 Mr. Twadell was called upon to mourn the loss of his first wife, who died upon the homestead farm on the 12th of October of that year. Five children had been born unto them, of whom two survived the mother, namely: Frank A., who is a resident of Montana; and Eddy Reeves Twadell, who is living in Nebraska. One daughter, Kittie B., became the wife of George Parkinson, of Quincy, and died May 28, 1899, at the birth of her child, Frances Mary, who survives her. In 1873, Mr. Twadell was again married, his second union being with Miss Phoebe L. Culp, who was born in Niagara county, New York, on the 5th of April, 1833, and is a daughter of Nicholas and Phoebe (Rockwood) Culp. Her father was a native of Pennsylvania and her mother of New York, and they became pioneer residents of Branch county, taking up their abode in Girard township in 1840, and there spending their remaining days.

In the public life and interests of Quincy township Mr. Twadell was recognized as a foremost factor of action and influence. In matters of citizenship he was intelligent and was a stirring and energetic man in any undertaking he assumed. Frequently called to public office, he filled various local positions and was then called to the higher honors, being elected to the Michigan legislature, where he capably served for two terms, being first chosen to the office in 1876 and again in 1878. He was chairman of the committee on agriculture and in various directions acted for the welfare of his county and state. His first presidential vote was cast for Martin Van Buren, then the candidate of the Freesoil party. He was twenty-one years of age on the day on which he voted. Subsequently he affiliated with the Whig party until the organization of the new Republican party, of which he became a stalwart champion, so continuing until 1884, when he took a forward step in behalf of the temperance cause and identified himself with the Prohibition party. During the war of the rebellion he was in hearty sympathy with the Union cause, and although he did not go to the front himself he voluntarily hired a substitute, believing that he personally could do more at home. He ever stood for progress in citizenship and for practical and successful accomplishment in all matters relating to the public welfare. For more than forty years he was a devoted member of the Methodist church and was always regarded as an exemplary Christian man, honest and conscientious in all life's relations, while in business life or in official service his reputation was unassailable and his name above reproach. Moreover he possessed a kindly spirit and broad

humanitarianism, which made him ever willing to extend a helping hand to those in need. His death occurred after an illness of about thirteen months and was the occasion of deep and widespread regret. His funeral services were largely attended, showing the position which he occupied in the regard of friends and neighbors. To know Mr. Twadell was to respect him, and those who came within the closer circle of his friendship entertained for him the warmest regard and most kindly feeling. He held friendship inviolable and he ever stood as a defender of all that is just and right in man's relations with his fellow men. He loved honor and truth, not because honesty is the best policy, but because his life was guided by principles which his conscience approved. Quincy and Branch county benefited by his efforts and by his example, and many years will have passed before the name of Rodney K. Twadell ceases to be remembered and honored in Branch county.

HON. E. E. BOSTWICK.

Hon. E. E. Bostwick is one of the distinguished citizens of Branch county who has represented his district in the state senate, and is now one of the extensive farmers, holding and controlling large landed interests, resides on section seven, Union township. He was born in Onondaga county, New York, May 27, 1840, and is a son of Nathaniel Bostwick, also a native of that county. The mother, who bore the maiden name of Emily Everett, was likewise born in the Empire state. E. E. Bostwick was there reared, and in the common schools of his home township gained his education, which was continued in Cazenovia Seminary and Homer Academy of the Empire state, but before the completion of the course he was obliged to put aside his text-books on account of ill health. He then turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, and thinking that he might have better business opportunities in the rapidly growing middle west he came to Branch county, Michigan, in November, 1864. His capital was very limited, so that he rented a tract of land, but in due course of time he purchased it and it constituted the nucleus of his present extensive landed possessions, now covering six hundred and thirty acres. Most of his land is very valuable and productive, and he carries on general farming, raising both grain and stock. He is one of the largest grain producers of Branch county and his farm presents a splendid appearance with its green fields that give promise of golden harvests. The stock too is of good grade, consisting of horses, sheep and the finest herd of Jerseys in Southern Michigan, and everything about the place indicates the practical and progressive spirit of a painstaking owner. He has been a resident of the county for about forty years and throughout this period has done his full share in the work of public advancement and improvement. In one year he raised a crop of nearly seven thousand bushels of wheat.

In 1861 Mr. Bostwick was united in marriage to Miss Adaline S. James, a daughter of Willis James of Phelps, Ontario county, New York. Both Mr. and Mrs. Bostwick enjoy the warm friendship of a large circle of acquaintances. Politically he was for many years a Republican, but is now an advocate of the Prohibition party and also a believer in the free coinage of

silver. He served as supervisor for one term, and in 1896-7 represented his district, comprising Branch, Hillsdale and St. Joseph counties, in the state senate. He was the first opposition candidate elected from this district since the organization of the Republican party, a fact which indicates his personal popularity and the confidence reposed in him by his fellow men. He proved a capable officer, studying closely the questions which came up for consideration and giving earnest support to those which he believed would benefit the commonwealth. He has long been a prominent member of the Congregational church, contributing generously to its support, taking an active part in its work and serving for twenty-five years as a deacon. By his own exertions he has attained an honorable position and marked prestige among the representative men of the county and with signal consistency it may be said that he is the architect of his own fortunes.

CLARENCE L. OLDS.

Clarence L. Olds, who follows the occupation of farming on section twenty-two, Batavia township, was born on the 7th of October, 1853, in the township which is still his home. His father, Martin P. Olds, was a native of Seneca county, Ohio, born November 14, 1827, while the grandfather, Martin Olds, was a native of Berkshire county, Massachusetts. He became a resident of Branch county in 1834, locating in Batavia township. He entered land from the government on sections twenty-three and twenty-four, and was one of the pioneer settlers of the county, few having taken up their abode in this part of the state at the time he established his home in the midst of the forest here. He aided in reclaiming a wild district for the purposes of civilization and was one of the valued pioneer settlers who assisted in laying strong and deep the foundation for the present development and progress of the county. He was president of the first bank of Branch county, which was a state bank established in the village of Branch, then the county seat. He was also judge of probate and he was representative for Michigan territory in the national congress. In fact his fitness for leadership made him one of the most prominent men of Michigan in early days, and he left the impress of his individuality upon the public life and did much toward molding public thought and action. His early political allegiance was given to the Democratic party, but later he became a stanch Republican and continued to support the men and measures upholding the principles of that organization until his death. He belonged to the Universalist church and passed away at the age of seventy-three years. He had carved his name deeply upon the records of the state and is remembered as one of the honored pioneer settlers of Branch county.

Martin P. Olds, the father of Clarence L. Olds, was about seven years of age when he came with his parents to Michigan. He was educated in the common schools of Batavia township and in his youth assisted in the development of the home farm, while the experiences and conditions of pioneer life became very familiar to him. He was married on the 13th of November, 1850, to Miss Caroline B. Sprague, a daughter of Isaac and Sabrina (Lyon) Sprague, the former a native of Rhode Island and the latter of Saratoga

county, New York, where they were married in February, 1826. They lived for a time in Troy, New York, and there the father was connected with mechanical pursuits. Mrs. Olds, their eldest child, was born in Troy, November 27, 1827 and went with her parents on their removal to Penfield, Monroe county, New York, whence they came to Branch county in 1836, settling in Coldwater. Not long afterward they took up their abode on a farm in Batavia township and resided there for some time, after which they returned to Coldwater, where their remaining days were passed. The father attained the age of eighty-two years, while his wife departed this life when seventy-seven years of age. There were nine children, seven of whom reached years of maturity. Mrs. Olds is the only representative of the family now living in Branch county. She has a brother, Levi Sprague, now a resident of Chicago, where he is engaged in the practice of law, while another brother, D. P. Sprague, makes his home in St. Joseph county, Michigan. Her sister, Lucina, is the wife of Henry Huff, living in the town of Mendon, St. Joseph county, Michigan.

Clarence L. Olds is an only son and child. He was educated in the common schools and in the high school of Coldwater and was thus equipped in able manner for life's practical and responsible duties. Having arrived at years of maturity he was married on the 22nd of June, 1871, to Miss Alma Willis, a daughter of George and Mary (Welch) Willis, who was born in Portage county, Ohio. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Olds has been born one son, Mortimer W., who wedded Miss Mary Bowers and resides on part of the old homestead.

At the time of his marriage Clarence L. Olds located upon what is the old home property of the family in Batavia township, and here he has since lived, being engaged in general farming and stock raising. He has four hundred and forty acres of land which he carefully cultivates, and the fields have been placed under a high state of improvement, and return golden harvests for the care and labor bestowed upon them. He has never been known to take advantage of the necessities of his fellowmen in any trade transaction, but by close application and unfaltering diligence has won a gratifying measure of success. He has also been a potent factor in public life, giving his allegiance to the Democratic party, and upon that ticket he was elected and served for three terms as supervisor, being first chosen to the office in 1896. He belongs to the Masonic lodge of Coldwater and to the Maccabees tent. He has been a lifelong resident of Branch county, and with the exception of three years has lived continuously in Batavia township. A worthy representative of an honored pioneer family, his worth is widely acknowledged by all who know him and his life has been in keeping with the splendid record made by his father and his grandfather. One cannot carry his investigations far into the history of the county without learning of the close and honorable connection of the Olds family with the history of this section of the state, and Mr. Olds like his ancestors has stood as the defender of its best interests and as the promoter of various measures for the general good.

DAVID H. WOOD, M. D.

Dr. David H. Wood, proprietor of the Emergency Hospital of Coldwater, and a skilled physician and surgeon, whose abilities rank him with the leading representatives of the profession in this part of the state, was born in Portage county, Ohio, October 29, 1845. His parents, Samuel and Kerene (Osborn) Wood, were both natives of Maryland, and their marriage was celebrated in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, whence they afterward removed to Portage county, Ohio. Later they became residents of Hardin county, Ohio, where their last days were passed and throughout his life the father devoted his attention to agricultural pursuits. In the family were three sons and two daughters who reached years of maturity.

Dr. Wood was reared upon the home farm to the age of sixteen years and after acquiring his preliminary education in the country schools he continued his studies in the high school of Kenton, Ohio. In 1861 he came to Michigan and at Quincy secured a position in the postoffice, where he remained for two years. On the 9th of August, 1863, in response to his country's call for aid, he enlisted as a private of Company B, Fourth Michigan Infantry, although less than eighteen years of age. Before going to the front he was detailed to remain in charge of the recruiting office in Detroit, and in the summer of 1864 the regiment was recruited and he was commissioned second lieutenant Company E, Fourth Michigan Infantry, on the 26th of July. On the 2d of December, 1865, he was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant, and on the 26th of May, 1866, he was mustered out at Houston, Texas. He participated in the battles of Decatur, Alabama, Murfreesboro, Nashville and other engagements, and he is today a member of C. O. Loomis post, No. 2, G. A. R., thus maintaining pleasant relations with his old army comrades.

For a short time after the war Dr. Wood was upon the road as a commercial traveler, and then took up the study of medicine under a preceptor. Later he entered the University of Michigan as a student in the medical department and afterward continued his studies in the Detroit Medical College, from which he was graduated in the class of 1876. He began practice at Macon, Michigan, where he remained for five years, later spending thirteen years in Quincy, while in 1893 he came to Coldwater. He is a member of the Northern Tri-State Medical Society and the Hillsdale County Medical Association, and he has ever kept thoroughly informed concerning the progress that is continually being made in the methods of medical and surgical practice. In April, 1903, he opened the Emergency Hospital, wherein he has since performed many important surgical operations, having well appointed operating rooms and all equipments necessary for the successful care of the interests entrusted to him.

Dr. Wood has been married twice. In 1870 he wedded Miss Mary Keegan; who died in 1885, leaving a son, Charles L., whose death occurred at the age of twenty-eight years. In 1887 Dr. Wood wedded Mrs. Margaret Knowlton, nee Welton. They hold membership in the Presbyterian church and Dr. Wood is also a Knight Templar Mason. His political sup-

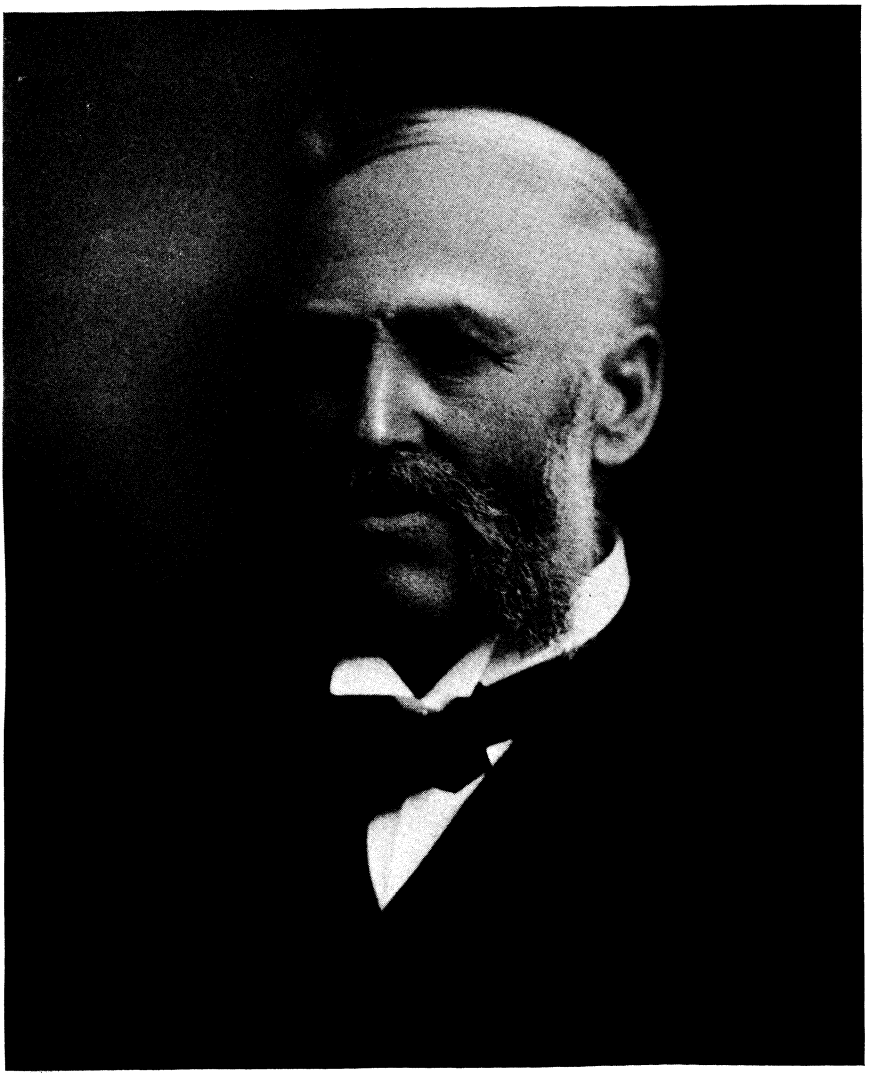
port is given to the Republican party and he is a member of the board of education of Coldwater, while for twenty years he has been a member of the pension board, and since 1890 has been local surgeon for the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railway. His interests, however, center in his profession, and his close and discriminating study and his devotion to the duties which devolve upon him have made him a most capable practitioner—one whose abilities find ready recognition in the liberal patronage accorded him.

CHARLES H. YOUNG.

Charles H. Young, owner and editor of the Quincy News, was born in Mount Jefferson, Shelby county, Ohio, in 1858. He is of German lineage. His paternal grandfather, William Young, was a native of Holland, who came to this country about 1752 and settled in New Jersey. His father, Henry D. Young, a native of New Jersey, emigrated from that state to Ohio in 1836, establishing his home near Cincinnati. In early life he learned and followed the cabinet maker's trade and later he conducted a furniture and undertaking business in Cincinnati. About 1845 he removed to Shelby county, Ohio, where he carried on the same line of business. In 1867 he came to Michigan, locating in Quincy, where for more than twenty years he was connected with mercantile interests here as a furniture dealer and undertaker. He retired from business in 1889 and is now living in well earned ease, enjoying the fruits of his former labor. He is a Mason, interested in the craft and its teachings, while politically he is a Republican, and upon the ticket of the party has been elected village treasurer and trustee. He has likewise held other local offices and has been found as reliable and trustworthy in public positions as in his business career, wherein he is known as the soul of integrity and honor. He married Eliza A. Blackwood, a native of Shelby county, Ohio, who is now living at the age of eighty-three years. Her parents were William and Anna (Kendall) Blackwood, who removed from Pennsylvania to Ohio about 1810, the father there following the occupation of farming. In his family were seven children, of whom Mrs. Young is the sixth in order of birth. She is a devoted member of the Presbyterian church. By her marriage she became the mother of three children: Margaret, the wife of James Haynes, who is living retired in Quincy; Charles H.; and Anna, now deceased.

Charles H. Young was brought to Branch county in his early childhood and was a student in the public schools of Quincy. After putting aside his text books he became associated with his father in the furniture business, in which he continued for a number of years, and later he traveled for a furniture house for seven years. In 1889 he began the publication of the Quincy News, a non-partisan paper issued twice each week in seven column folio form. It has a splendid subscription list and a generous advertising patronage, so that the business has proved profitable. Mr. Young has been editor and proprietor since its inception, and is meeting in fair measure the success that is due his efforts and enterprise.

In 1881 Mr. Young was married to Miss Cornelia Clark, a daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Thomas) Clark and a native of Quincy, born in 1865.



O. L. Smith



Mrs A. L Smith

Her father was a hotel man, who built and conducted the Quincy House. Both he and his wife were natives of New York and he died in 1884, but Mrs. Clark is still living. They were the parents of five children, but only Mrs. Young now survives. She is a member of the Episcopal church and by her marriage has become the mother of three children: Lee J., Flosana and Harry T.

Mr. Young belongs to the Knights of Pythias fraternity, being a charter member of Quincy Lodge, No. 201. He has always endorsed Republican principles and has served as village clerk, as treasurer, trustee and in other local offices. His interest in public affairs is deep and sincere, and he is known as a champion of every measure which tends to promote the general welfare. He has followed enterprising methods in journalism and has made the Quincy News a credit to the city.

ABRAM L. SMITH.

Among the earliest pioneers of Branch county there were some noble men and women who, coming from the eastern states to the then unknown forests of the middle west, braved all of the hardships and privations of pioneer life, reared large families of children and made for themselves comfortable homes. These men and women possessed character and untiring perseverance and they were the ones who in a large measure moulded affairs in general, as well as establishing a high moral tone which remains to this day.

Such were Benjamin H. Smith and his wife, Content Aldrich Smith, parents of our subject, Mr. Abram L. Smith, who came to Branch county in their early manhood and womanhood and passed the remainder of their lives here, achieving success in all walks by reason of their many sterling traits of mind and character.

Benjamin H. Smith was the son of Benjamin L. Smith, who was born in New York state, September 24, 1729, and it will thus be seen that he was a man of middle age at the outbreak of the Revolutionary war. He took an active part in this conflict and had the honor of being with America's first naval commander, Paul Jones, when the latter first raised the flag of the United States on the high seas, thus marking the establishment of the navy of this country. Benjamin L. Smith was a doughty warrior in times of peace as well as war, for during a goodly share of his life he was noted all through the colonies for his skill in the manly art of self-defense. It is related of him that one day as he and his family were sitting down to the midday meal a stranger appeared and announced that he had walked a distance of one hundred miles for the purpose of trying conclusions with Mr. Smith, to see which was the better man. The stranger expressed a willingness to await the conclusion of the meal, but Mr. Smith thought the matter might better be settled without delay, so, arising from the table, he led the way outdoors, and in the ensuing conflict knocked the stranger down three times in succession, and this, too, without receiving any injuries himself. The stranger expressed his satisfaction, shook hands and was then invited in to dinner, of which he partook with relish before resuming his return trip of one hundred

miles home again. Benjamin L. Smith came to Michigan in a later day and lived to the remarkable age of one hundred and thirteen years and six months, dying on the Smith farm, now owned by our subject, March 24, 1843, and being buried in the little cemetery of West Prairie near the home farm.

Our subject's father, Benjamin H. Smith, was born in New Jersey, April 14, 1798, and he removed to Walworth, Wayne county, New York, with his parents when he was a mere boy. Here he grew to manhood and here he learned the trade of carpenter and joiner, which was to be of great use to him in the new country to which he afterward removed. In Walworth he was married, February 22, 1827, to Content Aldrich, who proved a most capable helpmeet during their long wedded life. A few years after their marriage, in 1830, they came to Michigan, locating first at Ypsilanti, where Mr. Smith worked at his trade for several years, and afterward he spent several months at Battle Creek and Grand Rapids. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land near Battle Creek, but being unable to obtain additional adjoining acreage so as to make him a suitable homestead, he sold his land and came to Branch county and Girard. When at Grand Rapids that place was a mere Indian trading post, but he felt that it might some day become an important point, and he endeavored to interest his partners in the purchase of land upon which Grand Rapids city now stands, but was unsuccessful. He first came to Branch county and purchased property in 1832, and with others located and built the first saw and grist mill at Hodunk. He also erected the first frame house in Coldwater and was interested in various enterprises, including the purchase of about one thousand acres of land in various parts of the state, in the most cases making his purchases direct from the government. One of these purchases was a tract of three hundred and twenty acres in Girard township, which he reserved as a homestead for his family, and this identical three hundred and twenty acres, issued by grant of President Andrew Jackson, still remains in possession of the Smith family, it now being the home of our subject. In later years he was largely interested in other real estate deals and was largely instrumental in the upbuilding and development of this county.

Although in early years a stanch Democrat, nevertheless, in 1860, he became convinced of the correctness of the principles advocated by the Republican party, and cast his first Republican vote for Lincoln for president, remaining loyal to that party until his death. Mr. and Mrs. Smith were loyal and consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and immediately after the formation of the Girard Methodist Episcopal society Mr. Smith placed his own home at the disposal of the pastors for a number of years, and here they lived and were made comfortable. After a long and useful life, Benjamin H. Smith died in Girard, September 22, 1879, his wife passing away here April 9, 1882.

Our subject's mother, Content Aldrich Smith, was born in New York state in 1807. Her father was Abram Aldrich, who was born in Wayne county, New York, December 3, 1777, and who died in Girard April 8, 1842, and her mother was Sophronia Lake, who was born August 7, 1777, and



"Smithlands" Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Abram L. Smith.

who died in Girard, December 30, 1837. They, too, were among the earliest pioneers of this section, and elsewhere in this volume may be found appropriate mention of their lives and achievements.

The union of Benjamin H. Smith and Content Aldrich Smith was blessed with the birth of seven children, as follows: Laura Ann Smith Jacoby, born January 19, 1828, died in 1881. Mahlon A. Smith, born June 24, 1830, died July 18, 1892. Sophronia Smith Williams, born June 18, 1833, died in February, 1905. Benjamin H. Smith, Jr., born October 30, 1835, died in 1880. Abram L. Smith is our subject. Irene Smith Clizbe, born May 30, 1841, died in June, 1905. Mark H. Smith, the youngest child, born June 15, 1844, was one of the most brilliant young men of the period in this section. He left school at the outbreak of the Civil war, when a mere boy, and enlisted in the Nineteenth Michigan Infantry, serving with distinction and succumbing to the hardships of camp life, his death taking place at Danville, Kentucky, in September, 1863, when he was only eighteen years of age. He was buried here.

Of this family it will thus be seen that the only surviving member is our subject, Mr. Abram L. Smith, who was born in Girard township, October 21, 1838. His entire life, with the exception of the years passed at college, has been spent in Branch county and Girard, and here he is known as a man of property and influence. His boyhood was spent upon the home farm and here he early learned those habits of industry and carefulness which were to bring him success in after life. Being early convinced that a young man should secure a liberal education, he finished the common schools and studied for three years at Albion College, then taking a commercial course at a college in Rochester, New York. Mr. Smith has supplemented this liberal training with a wide range of miscellaneous reading, it being his belief that a broadly developed man should keep thoroughly posted on all current events as well as the advancement constantly being made along scientific and other lines of thought and research. During the life of his parents he remained with them, and previous to the death of his brother, Benjamin H. Smith, in 1880, the homestead and other property was held in common, but after the date named there was a division of the property and the fine old homestead came into the possession of our subject. This, as previously stated, consists of three hundred and twenty acres, although Mr. Smith owns ninety acres in addition, and it is a remarkable fact that the homestead has remained in constant possession of the Smith family ever since purchased from the government. Smithland Farm, as it is appropriately called, lies two miles west of Girard Center, consists of the finest prairie land and is classed as the finest model farm residence property in Branch county. The residence itself is a handsome brick structure, built in 1873-4, thoroughly modern in all appointments and surrounded by beautiful and well-kept grounds, while the other buildings upon the place are thoroughly in keeping, being commodious and well built, the whole premises showing that thrift and care common in the city, but rarely seen in the rural districts. The home is adorned with beautiful oil paintings, Mrs. Smith's own handiwork. Mr. Smith gives his personal attention to the operation of his four hundred and ten acres of land and the

place is equipped with all necessary modern machinery for successful operation.

During the past thirty-five years Mr. Smith has given a goodly share of his attention to the breeding of light harness horses, and in this direction he has done a great deal in the way of bettering the equine stock of this and neighboring counties. Beginning with the Morgan breed he has successively owned and bred the best strains of Hambletonian, Wilkes and Pilot Mediums, among his present stock being the following: Pilotina, a brood mare by Pilot Medium, is the dam of Sphinx Medium, 2:12; Sphinxie, 2:15¼; Great Medium, 2:19¼; and Online (by Online, 2:04), who showed an eight in sixteen seconds when less than three years old. Snip, another brood mare by Magna Charta, is the dam of Oliver West, 2:17¼; Irony, 2:20¼; and Geraldine, 2:20¼. Mr. Smith's stallions include Great Medium, 2:19¼, by Great Heart; Online Medium, a 3-year-old, by Online, 2:04; and Nobby, a two-year-old, by Delacy, by Prodigal, and whose dam is Pilotina.

Mr. Smith is a loyal Republican, his first presidential vote being cast for Lincoln, and he stands high in the councils of his party. Although never a seeker after office, and in fact avoiding holding office except when a matter of duty, nevertheless he has been prevailed upon several times to serve his fellow-townsmen. He has been justice of the peace for the past twenty years, and is at present filling that office. He has also been director of his school district for ten years and has been chairman of the Republican township committee and a member of the county Republican committee for many years. He was a charter member of Girard Grange, secretary of the same during the first seven years, and has been master of the society a goodly portion of the time, a position he still holds. He has been master of Branch County Pomona Grange for six years and he is the president of the Branch County Farmers' Institute Society, holding this position for several years. From the foregoing it will be seen that Mr. Smith has for many years taken a deep interest in agricultural affairs and in the many organizations beneficial to the farmer.

Our subject was united in marriage February 26, 1889, to Miss Evelyn Paddock, who was born in Girard, December 19, 1850. She is the daughter of Ephraim J. Paddock and Almira Fox Paddock, two of Girard township's honored pioneers, and mention of whom is made in this work. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Smith has been a particularly happy one and has been blessed with the birth of one daughter, E. Myra Smith, and it is but natural that their affections and hopes should be centered upon their only child, who is being reared carefully and judiciously and being given every advantage in the way of education and accomplishments.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Smith are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which organization Mr. Smith, like his father before him, has long been an officer. He has also been greatly interested in the work of the Sunday-school and has always been an earnest worker in all movements for the welfare and happiness of the rising generation. That his life thus far has been a highly successful one in many fields is evidenced by his surroundings, by the high standing he holds in the community and county, and by the fact

that he is sustaining and upholding that best of all heritages, a good name, which his worthy ancestors established here when this section was first settled.

WILSON S. PAUL.

One of the most familiar names in southern Branch county, and particularly in California township, is that of Paul. Members of the Paul family were among the early settlers of this section, where they had an important influence upon the early history, improvement and development of the township, while today their descendants are numerous in this and adjoining townships, where they are people of property and influence.

John Paul, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was born in Ballybar, county Cavin, Ireland, in 1780, and when seventeen years old came to America with two sisters, Margaret and Nancy, they also leaving a brother, Thomas, and sister, Jane, in Ireland. John Paul was married in 1803 to Jane Allen, also a native of Ireland, born in 1780, who came to America when a child with her parents, John Allen and Elizabeth Riddle Allen, they locating first in Philadelphia and afterward removing to Argyle, Washington county, New York. Here John Paul died, leaving his wife a widow at forty-nine and with ten children. Seven years after his death she removed to Pembroke, New York, and afterward to York. That Jane Allen Paul was a woman of undaunted courage is evidenced by the fact that about the year 1840 she made the trip from Pembroke, New York, to Constantine, Michigan, going on foot from Detroit to Constantine and return, following Indian trails through southern Michigan. The object of this arduous journey was to secure justice and money belonging to herself and children which was in danger of being lost through confidence in others. She was married again in 1849 to David Armstrong, and spent her later years in California township, where she died in 1859. Mr. Armstrong died in Illinois in 1890.

John and Jane Paul had twelve children, of which family our subject's father, David Paul, was a younger member. David Paul was born in Argyle, New York, April 16, 1819, and he grew to manhood there. He was also married there, March 11, 1841, to Jane E. Hall, a native of Argyle, New York, where she was born August 31, 1822, she being the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Hall. David Paul was a resident of New York state until 1844, when he came to Michigan, locating on section sixteen, California township, of this county, where he spent the remainder of his life. He had in early life learned the trade of carpentering, although the most of his time was given to farming, in which he was eminently successful, he being at the time of his death the largest land owner in the township, possessing nearly six hundred acres. Mr. Paul was a leading figure in the early history of California township and he did much in the way of improvement here. He was upon many occasions called to public office, he being an early township supervisor here and holding other offices.

Unto David and Jane Paul twelve children were born, two of whom died in infancy, the others being as follows: John, died in October, 1901;

Elizabeth Quimby, lives in Ovid; James B., lives in this township; David and Albert live at Seattle, Washington; George W. died September 16, 1902; Wilson S. is the subject of this review; Frank H. is in Seattle, Washington; Emma J. Vance and Allen W. Paul live in this township. David Paul and his wife were people who stood very high in the regard of the residents of this section, where the greater part of their lives were passed. They reared a large family of children, giving them every advantage possible. The parents led long and useful lives, Mr. Paul dying here November 20, 1891, and Mrs. Paul passing away December 13, 1903.

Wilson S. Paul, born February 22, 1860, grew to manhood upon the home farm, securing in the meantime a good practical education, which he has supplemented with wide reading and intelligent observation. He lived at home until he had reached the age of twenty-three years, although he worked for himself after he was nineteen, laboring and working land on shares. He also taught school in 1881-82. He was married, April 10, 1883, to Sarah J. Vance, a native of Maryland, where she was born August 21, 1862. The Vance family came originally from Ireland and a brief review is as follows: The Vances were farmers in their native county in Ireland for many generations, Mrs. Paul's paternal great-grandfather being John Vance, who married Mary Allison. One of their sons, Robert Vance, was Mrs. Paul's grandfather and his wife was Mary Ramsey. They had twelve children, one of whom was Mrs. Paul's father, Alexander Vance. Alexander Vance was born in Ireland, November 28, 1833, and he was married there in 1852 to Mary Barnhill. They came to America soon after marriage, living in Brooklyn, New York, for three years and then removing to the vicinity of Baltimore, Maryland, where they lived for ten years and where Mrs. Paul was born. In 1864 the family came to Michigan, locating in California township, Branch county, which place has since been their home. Ten children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Vance: Robert, Alexander, Martha and Hugh dying in childhood. The others still living are: Ellen Dunlap, Sarah Paul, Matthew Vance and Andrew B. Vance, of this township; William Vance, of Cleveland, Ohio; and Anna McLouth, of Fremont, Indiana. Mrs. Vance died in September, 1888, while Mr. Vance is still living and a resident of this township.

The union of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Paul has been blessed with the birth of two sons: David Earl Paul, born February 9, 1884, and Ivan A. Paul, born July 8, 1888. Both live at home with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Paul are members of the United Presbyterian church.

The esteem in which Mr. Paul is held by his townsmen is shown in that he has so many times been called to public office. He was supervisor of California township four years, 1896-97-98-99; township clerk in 1884-85; township treasurer two terms and school inspector for several terms. In addition his well known interest in educational affairs has led to his selection as school officer, he being director and moderator for a period of eight years.

In agricultural matters he has also been highly successful. He became an owner of real estate after the death of his father and now has a fine farm of one hundred and forty acres on sections nine and ten, with excellent build-

ings and complete equipment, the whole forming a model farm home. The Pauls have long been honored residents of this part of the county, and the present living generations are upholding the unsullied name of their worthy ancestors. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson S. Paul have in their possession a parchment deed executed by President James K. Polk, dated February 1, 1849. This is the twelfth one of the kind found in old Branch county. They have four old almanacs of 1812, 1813, 1811 and 1815, which are souvenirs. Also they have one of the old flax hackles which was used by his grandfather, and it is over a hundred years old. Mr. Paul can also distinctly recall his mother spinning the yarn for the use of a family of twelve, while his first straw hats were woven or braided by his mother and oldest sister. He has often heard his father tell of cultivating corn with the same plow he used in first plowing the ground, afterward using a one, or single shovel plow, but never used one with two shovels, though his sons used them as they became old enough to work in the corn.

Mr. Paul was converted at twenty years of age and became a member of the United Presbyterian church immediately. He began teaching in the Sabbath school when twenty-one years old, and has taught most of the time since, having also been superintendent for fifteen years. He has been identified with the First District Convention work for eighteen years, being president two years, and taking an active part in its conventions. He was elected to an eldership at the early age of twenty-four, and has been clerk of session all the time since, a period of twenty-two years.

HENRY RUNYAN.

Henry Runyan, mail carrier on a rural route and a well known resident of Sherwood, was born in Bronson township, Branch county, on the 1st of May, 1846. His father, John Runyan, was a native of New York, and came to Branch county about 1837, settling in Bronson township, where he took up land from the government. The fact that much of the land was still unclaimed is an indication of the pioneer conditions which then existed. Comparatively few settlements had been made within the borders of the county and the work of development lay largely in the future. With other sturdy pioneers, however, he attempted the arduous task of reclaiming the wild land for the uses of civilization and successfully accomplished what he undertook. He was of Scotch and Dutch lineage. In his later years he retired from active business life and removed to Burr Oak, St. Joseph county. He married Christina Dowe, a native of New York, who lived to be about sixty-eight years of age. They were the parents of five children, three daughters and two sons, and Henry Runyan is the third child and second son.

The subject of this review was reared and educated at Burr Oak, acquiring a good education in the city schools. In his youth his patriotic spirit was aroused by the attempt of the south to overthrow the Union, and in 1864, when but eighteen years of age, he enlisted as a member of Company D, First Michigan Light Artillery, with which he served until the close of the war. He participated in the battle of Murfreesboro and Hood's Raid, and was on active duty most of the time until honorably discharged on the 3rd

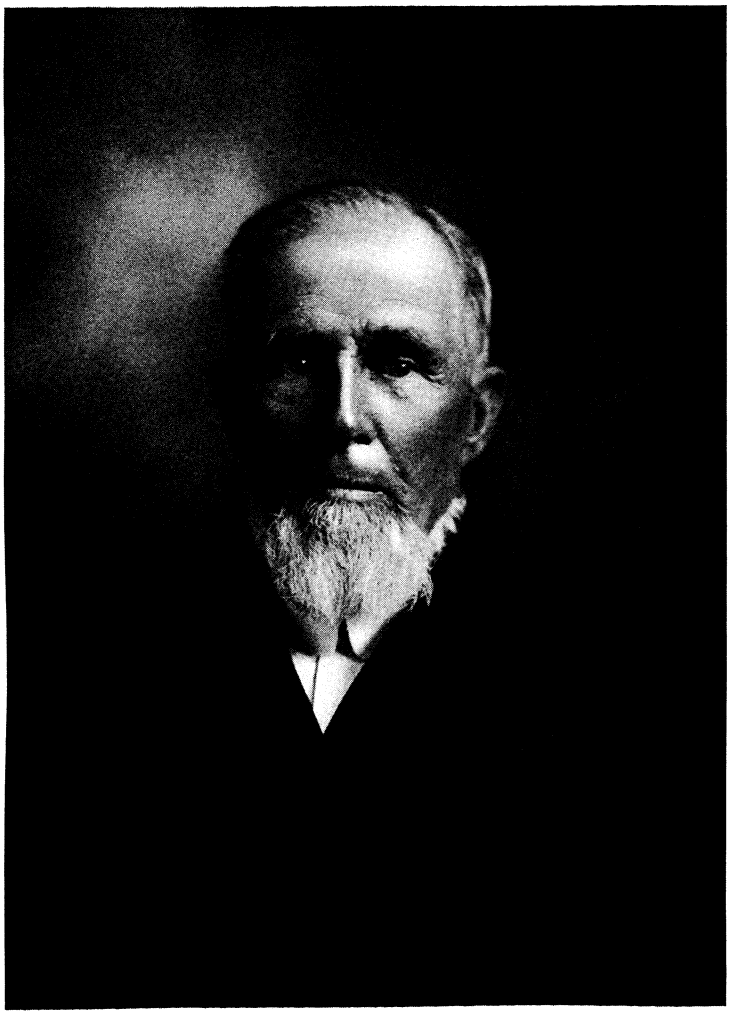
of August, 1865. When the country no longer needed his services Mr. Runyan returned to Branch county and later he spent one year in Iowa, living in Vinton, Benton county. On the expiration of that period he returned to this county, where he engaged in farming until he took up his abode in Sherwood. Here he turned his attention to painting and was also engaged in the grain trade for about fifteen years. He led a busy, active and useful life and in all of his trade transactions was known as a reliable man. He was postmaster during Harrison's administration, but at Cleveland's election was turned out of office.

On the 22nd of February, 1872, Mr. Runyan was united in marriage to Miss Hester Ann Palmer, a daughter of Henry and Mary (Platt) Palmer, who came to Branch county in 1842, locating in Matteson township. It was there that Mrs. Runyan was born on the 3rd of November, 1857. She is a sister of E. E. Palmer and in connection with his sketch on another page of this work the history of her family is given. Mr. and Mrs. Runyan have become the parents of two daughters: Inez, the wife of Seymour Jones, a boss carpenter on the Michigan Central Railroad living in Jackson, this state; and Jennie, the wife of William F. Lampman, who is engaged in the grocery business in Sherwood

Mr. Runyan has been a life-long Republican and has taken an active part in political work of his community. He has served on the village board, but has not been specially active in seeking office for himself. He has fraternal relations with the Masonic Lodge, the Knights of the Maccabees and Kilbourn Post, No. 361, G. A. R., in which he has filled the office of adjutant since the organization of the post with the execption of a period of two years. He was also its commander for two terms. He is especially interested in the work of the craft and has filled many offices in the Masonic lodge, while in his own life he exemplifies its teachings concerning mutual helpfulness and brotherly kindness. He has now been on the rural delivery since the route was established in 1901.

H. R. SAUNDERS.

H. R. Saunders, cashier of the Coldwater National Bank, who throughout his entire business career covering twenty-two years has been connected with this institution, was born in the city which is still his home, March 27, 1861. His father, Reuben M. Saunders, is now living retired in Coldwater. He was born in Niagara county, New York, February 13, 1835, and is descended from Scotch-Irish ancestry. The great-grandfather of H. R. Saunders was Francis Saunders, a native of Canada. His son, Nelson H. Saunders, was born in New York and came to Branch county, Michigan, in 1856. Following the occupation of farming he thus provided for his family and for his own support, becoming a prosperous agriculturist of his community. He was a member of the Episcopal church and he died in Batavia township in his eighty-first year. His wife bore the maiden name of Harriet M. Reynolds, and was also a native of New York, while her death occurred in Batavia township in her seventy-second year. She was a daughter of Reuben Reynolds and by her marriage she became the mother of three sons and four



J. H. McLane

daughters, Reuben M. Saunders being the fourth child and youngest son. He was reared and educated in the county of his nativity and pursued his education in the schools at Niagara Falls. His youth was passed on what was called the Whirlpool farm, about two and a half miles from the Falls. In 1855 he came to Branch county, Michigan, where he was engaged in farming. He spent twenty-five years upon the road as a traveling salesman, representing different lines of business, and he is now living a retired life, enjoying his home in Coldwater.

In 1856 Reuben M. Saunders was united in marriage to Miss Sarah M. Grove, a daughter of Elijah Grove, Sr. She was born in Niagara county, New York, and was brought to Branch county, Michigan, by her parents when about seventeen years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Saunders established their home in Coldwater in 1859 and here they have since lived, while for a half century they have been residents of this county. A life-long Republican he has never faltered in his allegiance to the party, and yet he has never sought or desired office. He belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen and is well known in the county, his genial manner, deference for the opinions of others, his kindliness and consideration having gained for him the friendship of many with whom he has been associated.

Harris R. Saunders, his only son, spent his boyhood days in the city of his nativity, acquired his education in its public schools and gained his business advancement through the opportunities here afforded. He entered the employ of the Coldwater National Bank in 1883, and has been connected with that institution since that date in various capacities, his capability and close application winning him promotion as opportunity offered, until in 1895 he was elected cashier.

Mr. Saunders was married in 1904 to Miss Elizabeth Coombs. He exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Republican party and has served as both city clerk and treasurer.

JOHN H. McLANE.

Since 1868 John H. McLane has been a resident of Coldwater. When he came to this city he purchased his present home at No. 76 North Hudson street, and here he has since resided for more than thirty-seven years, but only during the last ten or twelve years has he been closely associated with the events of the city, for previously he spent the greater part of his time away from here engaged in railroad construction. Perhaps there is no other contractor in railroad building living to-day who has constructed so many miles of railroad as has Mr. McLane, who was in that line of business actively and continuously for a period of nearly a half century. He was born at Mount Morris, Livingston county, New York, September 5, 1826, his parents being James and Nancy McLane, both of whom were natives of Scotland, in which country they were reared and married. They came of Scotch ancestry and one son was born unto them in the land of their nativity, after which they sailed for America in the year 1825. Landing in New York city, they made their way to Livingston county, New York, where they spent their remaining

days. They had three sons, one younger and one older than John H. McLane, who is now the only survivor of the family.

John H. McLane acquired but a limited education. He left the parental home when eighteen years of age and for one year worked as a farm hand, after which he attended a term of school. He then began his career as a railroad builder. He was first employed as a grain buyer for a railroad construction company then building the Erie railroad in New York, and at that time he was not twenty years of age. He remained for two years in that employ and during that period was called upon to perform various duties for the company, thus gaining a broad experience that enabled him when a young man of scarcely twenty-two years to build, as a contractor, a wall three miles long protecting the Erie Railroad along the Canesteo river. That was his first contract work. Subsequently he worked for others and for himself and soon gained a reputation that made possible the remarkable success with which his career as a railroad builder was attended. In many states, east, west, north and south, he has built miles and miles of railroad, constructing one hundred and fifty miles of the Nickle Plate road from Chicago eastward, which was perhaps his largest contract. Having achieved financial success in that business and accumulated a goodly estate he decided to return to his early home in Coldwater and retire from business. His success is certainly notable when we take into consideration that he started out in life for himself with no other capital than willing hands and a worthy ambition. He acquainted himself thoroughly with the great principles which underlie mechanical and civil engineering and his ability as a railroad builder brought him very gratifying prosperity. Born and reared upon a farm, he has always been interested in agricultural life and since his retirement from the field of railroad construction he has become the owner of three large and valuable farms in Branch county, giving much of his time and attention to their management.

Mr. McLane was married in Mount Morris, New York, on the 8th of January, 1849, to Miss Frances E. Scott. She was born in Chemung county, New York, August 24, 1827, and has shared his sorrows and joys as a faithful wife for more than forty-six years. She is possessed of sterling qualities of heart and mind and is a zealous Christian, holding membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, and until her health failed her recently she was an ardent worker in various departments of church activity. Because of the absence of her husband during much of the time in the early years of their married life the duty of rearing their three children largely devolved upon her and to her they acknowledge much gratitude for her loving care and attention. They have two sons, Winfield and Scott, and a daughter, Jennie.

Both Mr. and Mrs. McLane attend the Methodist church, and many years ago he was a member of the Masonic fraternity in New York, but never transferred his membership to the local lodge of Coldwater. He has always supported the men and measures of the Democratic party, but has had no political aspiration for himself. He is a man of quick discernment, a ready thinker and possessed of deep convictions. He holds friendship inviolable, and because of his loyalty he is greatly appreciated by those who come within the inner circle of his acquaintance.

CHARLES J. HARRIS.

Charles J. Harris, of the undertaking firm of C. J. Harris & Company, has been engaged in business in Coldwater for twenty-one years and is well known as a representative citizen here. His birth occurred in Ann Arbor, Michigan, February 4, 1862, his parents being John and Mary (Lawler) Harris, who were natives of New York and were married in that state, whence they came to Michigan in the early '40s. They settled in Ann Arbor, then a small unimportant town, continuing their residence there until 1873, when they took up their abode in the city of Detroit. The mother's death occurred in Detroit, in 1889, when she was sixty-three years of age and the father departed this life in 1900, when sixty-four years of age. He was a carriage-maker by trade, and for many years was identified with the industrial development of the cities in which he made his home. Unto him and his wife were born seven sons and six daughters.

Charles J. Harris was a youth of eleven years when his parents removed to the city of Detroit, and there he was reared to manhood and attended school. He was also in his early boyhood days a student in the public schools of Ann Arbor, and when his education was completed he began learning the trade of upholstering, serving an apprenticeship of three and a half years. In 1884 he came to Coldwater to accept employment with the furniture firm of Blodgett & Son, with whom he remained for fifteen years. In the meantime he took up the study of undertaking and embalming, and at Lansing he attended the William F. Hoenschue School of Embalming, from which he obtained a certificate in 1891. He is one of the original advocates of a law for licensing embalmers in Michigan, and was the first applicant for such a license, following the passage of such a law. In 1901 he embarked in business on his own account in Coldwater and has been very successful here.

Mr. Harris was married in 1895 to Miss Maud I. Stevens, of Coldwater, and they have one child, Alice E. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are well known socially in the city where they reside, having gained the friendship and esteem of many with whom they have been brought in contact. Fraternally Mr. Harris is connected with the Independent Order of United Workmen and has also attained the Royal Arch degree in Masonry. He belongs to the Michigan State Undertakers' Association, and in his political views is a Republican. He served for one year as city clerk of Coldwater, but otherwise has never sought or desired office, concentrating his energies upon his business affairs and the faithful performance of his duties in public and private life.

PYRL H. GUNSAULLUS, M. D.

Pyrl H. Gunsaullus, M. D., the well known surgeon of Branch county, Michigan, dates his birth in Salem Center, Steuben county, Indiana, May 16, 1860. His parents, Elijah D. and Elizabeth (Conklin) Gunsaullus, natives of Ohio, moved into Indiana in 1859 and settled on a farm in Steuben county, where they reared their family. One son, William, is a resident of

Salem Center, Indiana, and a daughter, Mrs. Ella Helwig, lives in Helmer, that state.

At the early age of fifteen years Dr. Gunsaullus began life for himself, and although he never left his home as a home he was self supporting and carried his own purse from that time on. He received his early education in the country schools of his native county, after which he entered the Tri-State Normal College at Angola, Indiana, where at the end of three years he received the degree of B. S. He also took a business course in that institution, and at intervals while there and after leaving college he taught school, beginning that occupation when about twenty years of age and spending ten years in the work, in the country districts of Steuben and La Grange counties, Indiana, and later in the city schools of Edgerton, Ohio. In the meantime he began the study of medicine. He pursued a course in the Detroit College of Medicine, graduating therefrom with the class of 1894, and while in Detroit he secured a year's practical experience in Harper's Hospital, which gave him additional equipment for his work. He also spent one year in Angola, Indiana, in the practice of his profession, and coming to Bronson in 1895, he continued in practice and has since remained here, where in addition to his regular medical practice he is also doing a large amount of surgical work. His especially successful work as a surgeon has gained for him an enviable recognition in this line, and he stands to-day as one of the leading surgeons of the county. He is a believer in the American idea of self-made men, of which he is a good example, having risen by his own efforts from the boy of all work on the farm at fifteen to the successive positions of teacher, scientific graduate, Doctor of Medicine, and at the present time an accomplished physician and surgeon. He is one of those busy men, and says he was never "out of a job," but when others complained of no work he always had something to do from a boy up, for if he could not do one thing he always found something else to do.

Dr. Gunsaullus' home on East Chicago street in Bronson is one of the good and handsome residences of the town. He married, in 1898, Miss Nellie Calhoun, a daughter of Merrit C. Calhoun, of this county, and they have one child, Pearl. Fraternally the Doctor is identified with the Maccabees, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. He casts his franchise with the Republican party and worships with the Christian church, of which he is a consistent member.

LORING P. WILCOX.

Loring P. Wilcox needs no introduction to the readers of this volume because he has long been well known in Branch county. He has been honored by his fellow townsmen with important offices here, and his business interests, too, have been so successfully conducted that he is now enabled to live a retired life. He was born in Naples, Ontario county, New York, June 8, 1830. His father, Newcomb Wilcox, was also a native of the same county and was a farmer by occupation. Seeking a home in the west, he came to Branch county, Michigan, in 1837 and cast his lot with the pioneer settlers of Sherwood township, securing a tract of raw land through a

trade. The place was entirely wild and uncultivated, but he soon turned the furrows and continued the work of improvement until he had developed a splendid property, making his home upon that farm for about sixty years. His wife died upon that farm and he afterward removed to the village of Sherwood to live with his daughter. His death occurred when he had reached the very advanced age of ninety-three years. He aided in molding the early policy of the county, in promoting its material development and in upholding its legal and political status, and he held a number of local offices in pioneer times. His wife bore the maiden name of Miranda Stearns and was also a native of Ontario county, New York. She was seventy-six years of age at the time of her death. They were the parents of nine children, of whom two died in early youth, while seven reached manhood and womanhood.

Loring P. Wilcox, the eldest son, was six years of age when he came with his parents to Branch county and in his boyhood days he pursued his education in a log school house at Albion, spending two years there. At a later date he engaged in teaching in Branch and St. Joseph counties, and when not thus engaged his attention was given in undivided manner to the work of the home farm, so that he early became familiar with all the labors that devolve upon the agriculturist as he tills his fields, harvests his crops and raises and markets his stock.

On the 21st of March, 1852, Mr. Wilcox was united in marriage to Miss Belinda S. Lamport, a daughter of Hiram and Altha Lamport. Mrs. Wilcox was born in Erie county, Pennsylvania, March 26, 1830, and was only nine days old when her mother died. She was reared by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gilbert in St. Joseph county, Michigan, and to her husband has been a faithful companion and helpmate on life's journey. They became the parents of a son and daughter, now living: Clark B., who is a traveling salesman residing in Sherwood, and Altha L., the wife of Fred Whitney, agent for the Michigan Central Railroad Company at Union City.

At the time of his marriage Loring P. Wilcox settled on a farm in Sherwood township, and through the summer months devoted his attention to the cultivation of the fields and in the winter season engaged in teaching school. He also conducted a factory in Colon for about a year. His business interests have ever been capably managed, and as the years passed he accumulated a comfortable competence that now enables him to live retired. He has also rendered capable service in public office. In 1871 he was elected county treasurer and entered upon the duties of the position on the 1st of January, 1872, acting in that capacity for two terms, or four years. He was also under-sheriff for two years and was then elected sheriff for a two-years' term, on the expiration of which period he was re-elected because of the prompt and able manner in which he had discharged his duties. He was supervisor of Sherwood township for four years, township clerk for many years and also justice of the peace, but resigned the latter position. In politics he has been a life-long Republican, and his fellow townsmen, recognizing his ability and fitness for leadership, have continued him in office during the greater part of his active life. No trust reposed in him

has ever been betrayed in the slightest degree, and over his official record there falls no shadow of wrong or suspicion of evil.

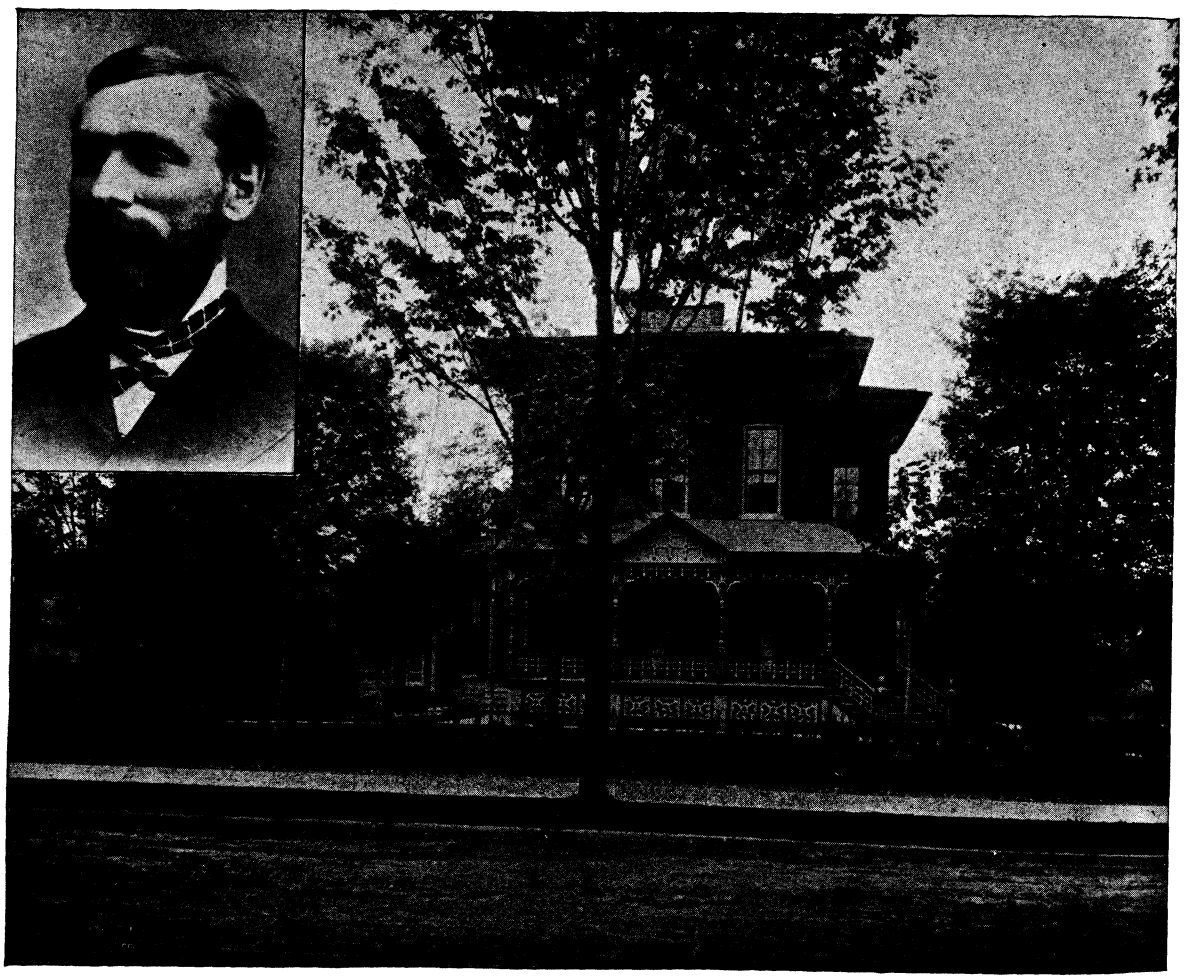
Mr. Wilcox, fraternally, is a Mason and has taken the Royal Arch degrees. He also belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen. His residence in Branch county covers sixty-eight years and he is therefore familiar with its history from pioneer times to the present. The events which to many have become familiar merely from reading the annals of the county are to him matters of experience, or else he has been a witness of the occurrences. He has always furthered public progress and, rendering active aid in movements for the general good, his efforts have proved far-reaching and beneficial.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox, on March 21, 1902, celebrated their golden anniversary at their home in Sherwood amidst their many friends, children and grandchildren. Fifty golden years had passed over the heads of this worthy and venerable couple, which have been replete with good deeds and right living before God and man.

WILLIAM J. CAMPBELL.

William J. Campbell, whose life exemplifies the term "dignity of labor," and whose purposeful efforts and unfaltering diligence have been the basis of a success which is as creditable as it is desirable, was born on section thirteen, Batavia township, December 23, 1872, and the old homestead is yet his place of residence, being the only child of James and Maria (Spring) Campbell. The father was born in Mendon, Monroe county, New York, May 15, 1820, and was there reared and educated. When a young man he came to Branch county, Michigan, and was married here to Miss Maria Spring, whose birth occurred in Massachusetts, August 23, 1830. They located on a farm on section thirteen, Batavia township, and Mr. Campbell improved some of the place, a part of it having been cultivated ere he took up his abode there. His life was devoted to general agricultural pursuits and thus he provided for his family. In 1850, however, he made the overland trip to California, attracted by the discovery of gold in that state and the business possibilities which were thereby opened up. He remained for two years in the west, engaged in packing over the mountains, carrying supplies to the mines. He returned to the Mississippi valley by way of the Isthmus of Panama and New York City. He was twice married, his first wife bearing the maiden name of Cooley, but at the time of her marriage she was Mrs. Brooks, a widow. In his political views Mr. Campbell was an earnest Republican for many years and he acted as township clerk and supervisor. All matters of local progress as well as of national importance received his earnest attention and active co-operation and he was well known in the county as a citizen whose aid might be counted upon to further any progressive movement. He died in the year 1898, in his seventy-ninth year, while the mother of our subject passed away in 1900, in her sixty-ninth year.

W. J. Campbell spent the days of his boyhood and youth in Batavia



George Starr

township and acquired his education in the district schools and in the high school of Coldwater, thus gaining a good practical knowledge to equip him for life's responsible duties. In his early manhood he engaged in clerking in a store in Coldwater, but later he returned to the occupation to which he had been reared, taking up his abode upon the old homestead farm, where he now carries on general agricultural pursuits and stock-raising. He makes a specialty of thorough-bred hogs, largely raising the Duroc Jersey breed, and he now has upon his place ninety head.

On the 19th of September, 1895, Mr. Campbell was married to Miss Elizabeth Stevens, a daughter of Amos and Elizabeth (Miller) Stevens, both of whom were born and reared in England. They became residents of Branch county, Michigan, about 1867, and in their family were four children, three daughters and a son, of whom Mrs. Campbell was the third in order of birth. She was born in Coldwater, May 5, 1873, and is a graduate of the high school there of the class of 1892. A lady of culture and refinement, she has many warm friends in the county. Mr. Campbell exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Republican party, and upon that ticket was elected justice of the peace. He is a member of the Grange, and his wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Campbell is a tenor singer of no little note and his power in this direction renders him a favorite in musical circles, while geniality, kindliness and deference for the opinion of others have made both Mr. and Mrs. Campbell popular in the county of their nativity. Their home is justly celebrated for its gracious and warm hearted hospitality and the circle of their friends is almost co-extensive with the circle of their acquaintance.

GEORGE STARR.

In the history of business activity and advancement in Coldwater the name of George Starr figured prominently, for as president of the Coldwater National Bank he occupied a prominent position in financial circles. Moreover his business record was such as any man might be proud to possess, for it was characterized by consecutive progress, and at the same time he never incurred an obligation that he did not fulfill, nor make an engagement that he did not meet. He was prompt and reliable and enjoyed the uniform esteem of his business associates.

A native of Lenawee county, Michigan, Mr. Starr was born in the village of Clinton, September 1, 1838, and died in Coldwater, December 30, 1889. He was the eldest of the three sons who constituted the family of George and Catherine (Ackerman) Starr. The second son, Henry Starr, at the time of the Civil war enlisted in defense of the Union cause and was with Sherman on the memorable march to the sea. After the war he became a farmer in the vicinity of Battle Creek, Michigan. The youngest son, Charles, was a merchant of Three Rivers.

In tracing the history of the father of our subject it is noted that he was born in the province of Bavaria, Germany, and that he emigrated to the United States in 1824. He became an early settler of Clinton, Lenawee county,

Michigan, where he followed the trade of wagon making. He was married in Detroit, about 1835, to Miss Catherine Ackerman, who was also born in Germany and came to the United States about 1830 with her parents, Conrad and Catherine Ackerman, who settled in Detroit. Soon after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. George Starr took up their abode in Clinton, Lenawee county, where they lived for many years and then passed away, the father's death occurring in 1878, and the mother's in 1884. They were members of the Presbyterian church and were held in highest esteem by all who knew them.

George Starr, whose name introduces this review, was reared in his native town, where he attended school until fourteen years of age, and then in order to secure funds with which to further educate himself he accepted a clerkship in a store and when the object of this labor had been attained he resumed his studies as a high school student in Ypsilanti, Michigan, while later he pursued a commercial course in the same city. In March, 1856, he accepted a position as bookkeeper in the banking house of Crippen & Fisk, of Coldwater, the junior partner being General Clinton B. Fisk, afterward Prohibition candidate for the presidency. He remained with that firm for several years, and finally joined Henry C. Lewis of this city in the establishment of a banking business at Coldwater.

It was in 1865 that the Coldwater National Bank was organized, Mr. Starr becoming a director and the cashier of the new institution. He acted continuously in the latter capacity until the death of Mr. Lewis in 1884, when he succeeded him as president of the bank and remained at its head until his own demise. As a banker and financier Mr. Starr displayed remarkable ability and much of the success of the institution was due to his sound judgment and business discernment. A safe, conservative business policy was instituted and has always been followed, and the bank enjoyed a gratifying growth and constantly increasing patronage. Mr. Starr was a Republican in his political views and his interest in the welfare and upbuilding of Coldwater led to his active co-operation in many movements for the general good. He was a man of action rather than theory, and this was manifest during his two terms of service as mayor of Coldwater, when he gave to the city an administration that was characterized by practical effort along the line of reform, improvement and substantial progress. In 1886 he was prominently mentioned as a candidate for state treasurer, and had it not been that a citizen of his own town, the Hon. C. G. Luce, was nominated for governor he undoubtedly would have secured the nomination had he asked for it.

On the 6th of September, 1860, the marriage of Mr. Starr and Miss Armilla Haynes was celebrated at the home of the bride in Coldwater. Mrs. Starr was the third child of Horace and Nancy (Smith) Dunning, whose family included six sons and four daughters. The father was a farmer by occupation and spent the early years of his life at Penfield, New York, near the city of Rochester, whence he afterward came to Michigan, settling in Allegan county, about 1836, as one of its pioneer residents. About thirty years later he removed to Iowa, in which state his death occurred in 1870. His widow and her children, who were at that time at home, afterward removed to Polk county, Nebraska, where she departed this life. She was a

native of Vermont and both she and her husband possessed rare qualities of heart and mind and were faithful adherents to the teachings of the Baptist church. Mrs. Starr was born in Allegan county, Michigan, December 29, 1839, and her death occurred in Coldwater, March 5, 1904. Her childhood days were largely passed in this city with her aunt, Armilla Haynes Marsh, at whose home she became an inmate when three years old, and there she was trained in a manner that amply fitted her for her future duties in later life. After attending the schools of Coldwater she continued her education in Rochester, New York. In early girlhood she became a member of the Baptist church and throughout her long and useful career she lived the life of an earnest, active and consistent Christian. Greatly interested in benevolent work she became identified with the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, of which she served both as secretary and vice-president and also officiated as superintendent of the press work for the Union. She was likewise a member of the Home and Foreign Missionary Societies, the Ladies Auxiliary to the Men's Christian Association and the Chautauqua Literary & Scientific Society. A large portion of her time was devoted to doing good and her efforts were far-reaching and beneficial. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Starr were born the following sons and daughters: John T., the eldest, born in Coldwater, September 15, 1861, married Miss Belle Woodward, a daughter of H. J. Woodward and they now reside in Coldwater. Catherine May, born May 7, 1866, died March 13, 1871. Georgiana Louise, born in Coldwater, resides in the city of her nativity.

In a review of the history of Mr. Starr in which we note the salient features of his career it is seen that he was a successful business man, fair and just in all his dealings and that he was uniformly respected. He began life with limited means but succeeded in acquiring a goodly estate. He provided well for his family and sought to give them good educational advantages. He owned a beautiful and modern residence on West Pearl street, it being of the most attractive homes of Coldwater and stands to-day as a monument to the enterprise and good taste of Mr. Starr.

SARAH MUDGE TURNER.

Sarah Mudge Turner, widow of the late well known citizen of Quincy, Ralph D. M. Turner, was born in Chili, Monroe county, New York, July 17, 1829. She is a daughter of Ebenezer and Lucretia (Heaton) Mudge, her father, whose career is given more extended mention elsewhere, having been a prominent man of affairs in Branch county for more than half a century.

The marriage of Sarah Mudge and Ralph D. M. Turner occurred on October 19, 1852. Her husband, who was born in Vermont in 1825, was a son of Ralph Turner. The latter, of English ancestry and everywhere held in high respect for the probity of his character and his genuine worth, at an early day moved from Vermont to Ohio, and died at LaGrange, the latter state, having pursued a prosperous career as a farmer. He was a Universalist in religion, and as a Whig held various minor offices. He married

Lucy Carpenter, a native of Vermont. Of their ten children Ralph D. M. Turner was their youngest. In 1857 he moved to Quincy, Branch county, where he farmed three years. In 1861 began a two years' residence in New York City, and after a year spent in Nashville, Tennessee, where he had a brother, F. G. Turner, formerly of Coldwater, he returned to farming at Quincy. At the time of his death in 1877, and for a number of years previously, he had been engaged in the drug business at Quincy. Successful both in business and as a farmer, he left considerable property, and as a rule prospered in his undertakings. Fraternally he was a Mason, was a Republican in politics, and was a member of the school board. Having had a broad experience in life, he reinforced his decisive convictions by equally energetic action, and performed his duties with all the ability of a strong character. Toward friends and those needing his help he was charitable in opinion and generous of his means, and throughout life held many to him by strong ties of affection and friendship.

Mr. and Mrs. Turner had six children: Kate is the wife of Lewis Eldridge, who has been a bank cashier for many years and is now in the freight office of the Lake Shore Railroad at Quincy; Karl is deceased; Don is also deceased; Jessie married Charles R. Hannon, a banker of Boston, Massachusetts; Grant is a banker in Council Bluffs, Iowa; and Ralph D. M. is in the nursery business at Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Mrs. Turner's father, Ebenezer Mudge, took a prominent part in the early history of this county. When he moved to his farm near Quincy in 1842 there was no school district in that vicinity, and it was through his efforts that one was organized and a short term of school held there the second year after his arrival. His ability received recognition in his being appointed, without solicitation on his part, a government surveyor, and for several months he was employed in that capacity in the upper peninsula of Michigan. He was editor of the "Quincy Times" for several years. He was an honorable man and lived fair and square to the world. He was a native of Herkimer county, New York, born May 9, 1804, and died in 1897. He was a man of more than passing importance in the executiveness as a citizen, being a local officer at various times, and the formulator of the charter of Quincy, Michigan. He was a born teacher and a leader of men.

ELMER E. PALMER.

Elmer E. Palmer, engaged in the practice of law in Coldwater, was born on a farm in Madison township, Branch county, Michigan, June 1, 1861. The family is of English lineage and was founded in America in colonial days. The grandfather, Nathan Palmer, was a native of New York and from Huron county, that state, he removed to Norwalk, Ohio. He was a farmer by occupation, always following that pursuit in order to provide for his family and at the time of the war of 1812 he served his country as a loyal soldier, and lived to the advanced age of eighty-two years.

Henry T. Palmer, son of Nathan Palmer, was born in Huron county, New York, and was a young man when he accompanied his parents on their

removal to Ohio, the family home being established near Norwalk. Having arrived at years of maturity he wedded Miss Mary Plotts, who was born near the city of Buffalo, New York, and was taken to Ohio by her father in her girlhood days, where she afterward gave her hand in marriage to Henry T. Palmer. They began their domestic life upon a farm, and in 1854 removed to Michigan, settling in Madison township, Branch county. For many years the father was closely identified with agricultural interests in this part of the state. He died in Branch county, in 1900, at the age of seventy-six years, and is still survived by his wife, who at the age of seventy-six years is now making her home in Coldwater. They were the parents of five children, all of whom are living.

Like the other members of the family Elmer E. Palmer was reared upon the old homestead farm and his early education, acquired in the common schools, was supplemented by study in the village schools of Sherwood and in the graded schools of Union City, Michigan. He afterward engaged in teaching in the country schools for two years.

Mr. Palmer read law in the office of Barlow & Loveridge, where he continued his study until his admission to the bar in 1887, since which time he has been engaged in practice in Coldwater.

In 1890 Mr. Palmer was elected to the office of prosecuting attorney, in which position he served for one term. In 1896 he was chosen by popular ballot to the office of probate judge, and in 1901 he was elected mayor of Coldwater. In official life he was found reliable, systematic and accurate.

In 1887 Mr. Palmer was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Hill, who died in 1895, leaving two children: Harold and Jacquelin. He was married a second time, in 1900, to Miss Florence Cornell.

JAMES E. DICKEY.

James E. Dickey, successfully and energetically carrying on the occupation of farming, was born November 8, 1869, in Coldwater township, upon the farm on which he yet resides. His father, George W. Dickey, was a native of Niagara county, New York, born on the 24th of January, 1845, and when but nine years of age was brought to Michigan by his parents, James and Mary (Appleby) Dickey, both of whom were natives of New York, in which state they were reared and married, removing from there to Michigan at an early period in the development of Branch county. They cast in their lot with the pioneer settlers, and the Dickey family has since been one of the most respected as well as one of the oldest families of this part of the state.

George Dickey, from the age of nine years was reared in Quincy and Coldwater townships and with the family shared in the usual experiences of life on the frontier, far removed from the comforts and civilization of the older east until these were secured through the persistent labor and enterprise of the early settlers. Throughout his entire life he followed the occupation of farming in order to provide for his family and thereby acquired a comfortable competence. The Dickeys lived in Quincy township

until 1865, when they came to the present family homestead on section thirty-six, Coldwater township, securing one hundred and thirty acres of land, which was cleared and placed under cultivation by George Dickey and others of the family. It was on the 2nd of April, 1868, that George Dickey was united in marriage to Miss Abigal McConnell, who was born in Coldwater township, Branch county, Michigan, July 17, 1848, a daughter of Henry and Phoebe (Whitehead) McConnell, who were prominent pioneer people of the county.

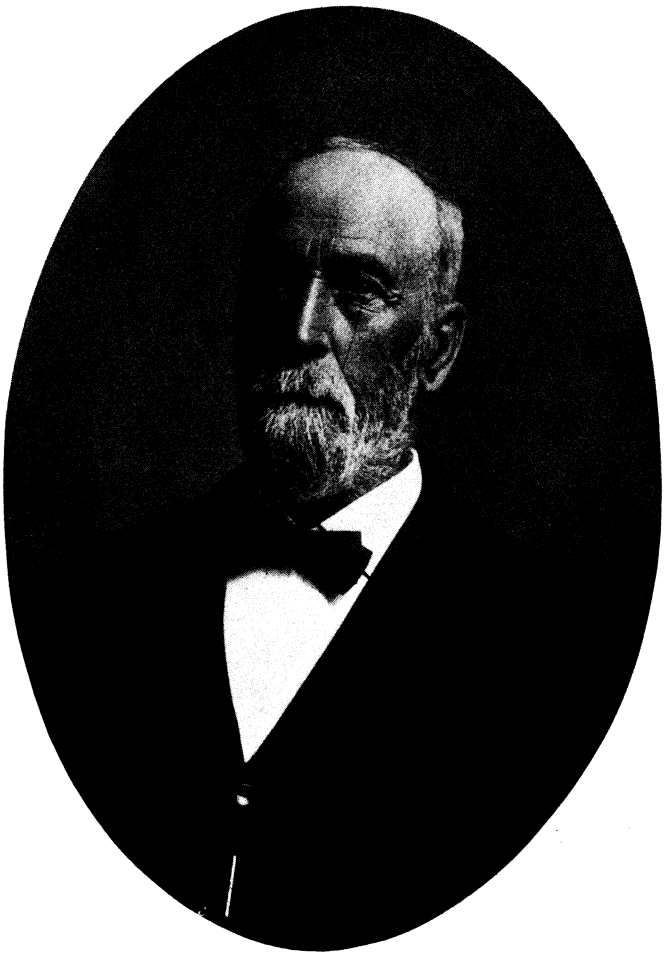
In public affairs relating to the community and its progress George Dickey was deeply and helpfully interested, finding time in the midst of arduous business duties to aid in the work of general improvement. He served as supervisor for eight terms, for township treasurer for two terms, school director and assessor for two terms, and in all these offices was found prompt and reliable in the discharge of his duties. His political support was given the Republican party, and he was a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Select Knights and the Grange. He died April 16, 1887, respected by all who knew him, and leaving behind the record of an honorable, upright life. His wife, who was a consistent member of the Baptist church of Coldwater, passed away May 1, 1901.

In the family of this worthy couple were eight children: Homer, who died at the age of three months; James E.; Lillian, born November 23, 1871; Mrs. Mary Dubendorf, who was born September 10, 1873, and is living in Ovid; George R., a resident of Coldwater, who was born December 13, 1877, and married Myrtle Olmstead; Lena B., born September 6, 1880; Ray H. and Roy L., twins, born March 18, 1886.

Five of the children, including James E. Dickey, still reside upon the old homestead and since the death of the parents Mr. Dickey of this review has been the head of the family, assisted by his sisters. Seldom does a family remain together in such harmony, but they are all working for a common interest and are making of the farm a splendidly improved property. In his political views James E. Dickey has always been an earnest Republican and is now serving as justice of the peace of Coldwater township and also as school assessor, and to these duties he brings the same fidelity and unselfish spirit which characterizes him in the management of the estate and the care of the younger members of the family.

HON. GEORGE W. VAN AKEN.

Hon. George W. Van Aken, living in Coldwater, is well known as a farmer and buyer of stock and wool and in his business career has displayed the close application, energy and persistency of purpose which are very indispensable elements in a successful career. He is a native of the Empire state, his birth having occurred in Monroe county, New York, September 8, 1828. His father, Cornelius Van Aken, was born and reared in Pennsylvania and was married in New York to Miss Harriett Phelps, whose birth occurred in New York. They located in Monroe county, where they resided until 1833, when they became residents of Lenawee county, Michigan.



S. W. Vanaken

In 1837 they removed to Branch county, settling in Girard township, where the father entered a half section of land from the government. The tract was wild and unimproved but he at once began its development and continued its cultivation up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1853, during which period his labors wrought a wonderful transformation in the appearance of his farm. He was a life long member of the Presbyterian church, active in its work and growth and his political allegiance was given to the Democracy. He served as commissioner of highways for several years and whether in office or out of it was always loyal to the public welfare and was a co-operative factor in many measures for the general good. His wife survived him for about ten years, passing away in 1863. They were the parents of ten children of whom two died in childhood, while eight reached mature years.

Hon. George W. Van Aken, the sixth child and fourth son in this family, was only eight years of age when brought by his parents to Branch county and upon the old homestead farm in Girard township he was reared. He attended school, which was held in a little log building such as was common in the early days, and there he mastered the elementary branches of learning. Later he continued his studies in Coldwater and was subsequently a high school student in Hillsdale, Michigan, thus acquiring a good education. In 1851, attracted by the discovery of gold in California, he went by way of Greytown to San Francisco and for two and a half years remained on the Pacific slope engaged in mining, meeting with a fair measure of success during that period. He then returned by way of the Isthmus of Panama and New York city and on again reaching Branch county he purchased the old family homestead, on which he carried on general agricultural pursuits until 1891, when he removed to Coldwater and erected his present residence from timber which came from his farm. He now rents his farm property, which comprises one hundred and ten acres of land and brings to him a good financial return. Not content to live a life of idleness he here began buying and selling stock and wool, making large shipments each year. He was also instrumental in organizing the Farmer's Mutual Insurance Company of Branch county and was a director and president of the company for twenty-five years.

On the third of July, 1854, occurred the marriage of Mr. Van Aken and Miss Lucy Clement, a daughter of Jonathan H. and Catherine Clement. They became the parents of one daughter, Mattie, who married William Storr and died leaving two sons, Van J. and George S., who were reared by their grandparents. The elder is now operating Mr. Van Aken's farm, while the younger brother is at Battle Creek, Michigan. Mrs. Van Aken died in 1885, and in 1887 Mr. Van Aken married Mrs. Celia A. Tilton, who died in 1898. In 1901, Mr. Van Aken was united in marriage to Mrs. Marion Foster, who was born in Bronson, Branch county, Michigan. She is a daughter of Hiram Hadley.

Mr. Van Aken voted with the Democracy until the organization of the new Republican party, when he cast his ballot for John C. Fremont and has since supported each presidential nominee of the Republican party. Called to public office he served as supervisor of Girard township for fourteen

consecutive years and was a member of the state legislature from 1873 until 1875. His political service like his private life has been characterized by fidelity to duty and a devotion to the public welfare. He was identified with the Grange of Girard township, serving as its master for fourteen years and was also master of the county Grange for eight years. He has been identified with the Presbyterian church since 1848 and his life has been actuated by honorable principles. His career will bear the closest investigation and scrutiny and is indeed in many respects well worthy of emulation. As one of the pioneers of the county he deserves representation in this volume, having for more than two thirds of a century resided in Branch county. What to many people are matters of record are to him matters of experience, for he shared in all of the hardships and trials of pioneer life and in later years has been an active participant in many events which have shaped the policy and molded the history of this part of the state. He has passed the seventy-seventh milestone on life's journey and receives from his fellow men the veneration and respect which should ever be accorded those of advanced years whose course has been marked by all that constitutes the good and thereby really great citizen.

WALTON J. BARNES.

Walton J. Barnes, one of the oldest and most highly esteemed citizens of Quincy, was born at Quaker street, in the town of Duanesburg, Schenectady county, New York, in 1825. Of English ancestry, his forebears were of excellent stock and in their time and generation filled worthy places in their respective spheres of activity and influence.

Thomas Barnes, his father, a native of Connecticut, at an early age learned the trade of carpenter, then became a merchant, then a farmer, and in 1831 superintended the laying of the track for a line of railroad between Albany and Schenectady, one of the early lines to be constructed in the Empire state. After assisting in this railroad enterprise he made a trip west, via the Erie canal to Buffalo, thence by boat to Detroit, and on to Chicago by stage, and his return to New York state was entirely by stage. His household goods, placed on a canal boat at Albany, were a week in reaching near Rochester, New York. He finally located in Wayne county, New York, where the rest of his honorable career was spent. A man of varied activities and of much influence in community and society, he was elected from Newark to the state legislature, for a number of years was supervisor of his township, and in politics was first a Henry Clay Whig and later a staunch Republican, having been sent to the legislature in 1856 on the Fremont ticket. He attained a competency. His religious adherence was given to the Universalist church. His wife, Abigail (Briggs) Barnes, who was born in Duanesburg, New York, of English descent, and a member of the Episcopal church, moved west to Quincy after the death of her husband, and lived there with her daughter until her death in 1876. Their six children are named as follows: James W., who is a retired physician living in southern Colorado; Walton J.; Lucy J., now deceased, was the wife of

Richard Post, a farmer; Carrie E., a resident of Chicago, and the widow of G. W. McCarn, a physician; Thomas N., deceased, was a farmer; Margaret A., deceased, married J. B. Salisbury, of Quincy.

Walton J. Barnes was reared on a farm, attending school in his home district and also an academy in Wayne county. Coming to Michigan in 1854, as one of the early settlers of Quincy township, this county, he built a sawmill, located on section twenty-six, and also bought a farm. During the ten years of his residence at that place he increased his land holdings until he owned five hundred acres. Then he bought the old Mudge place two miles south of Quincy and remained there until moving to Quincy in 1873. Although he has been interested more or less in the insurance business, he has for some years been practically retired, taking life easily and gracefully. He has one of the most beautiful homes in Quincy. A Republican in politics, he served as county drainage commissioner two years, but has never sought office or identified himself with practical politics to any extent. An ardent fisherman, he has been a constant visitor with rod and line to Marble Lake for the past fifty years and in 1895 built the first cottage on that charming body of water.

Mr. Barnes was married in 1860 to Miss Emily A. Mudge, who was born in Lenawee county, this state, in 1840. Her father, Ebenezer Mudge, was an honored former citizen of Branch county. A native of New York and then coming west and settling in Madison, Michigan, he moved to Quincy in 1842 and located on a farm two miles south of town that had been entered by his father Ebenezer. He was a brickmason by trade, and besides conducting his farm carried on the building trade, erected the first brick building in Coldwater—the old Dr. Sprague building—and also the Ed Clark store building. Mr. Mudge was a man of more than ordinary means and influence in his community. In politics a Whig and a Republican, he served for many years as justice of the peace, was village clerk and was one of the organizers of the village of Quincy, drafting the first charter. He was one of those who, in the early seventies, established the Quincy *Times* and as its editor devoted his attention thereto for a number of years. When he died in 1897, at the advanced age of ninety-three years, he carried to the grave the respect and reverence of all who had known him or who had come in contact with him in the varied relations of life. He was a man of education, was generous and charitable, was enterprising and public-spirited to a marked degree, and took a delight in promoting through personal influence and effort the welfare of his town of Quincy. Mrs. Barnes' mother was Lucretia Heaton, a native of New York state and of Scotch-Irish stock. There were twelve children in the family, but only four reached maturity, namely: Moreau, deceased; Sarah, widow of Ralph Turner, a former Quincy druggist; Melvin, now a retired ranchman in California, who, enlisted in 1861, was captain of Company B, Eleventh Michigan Infantry, as part of the Army of Cumberland, was wounded at the battle of Chickamauga, then promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel, and at the battle of Missionary Ridge, after Col. Stoughton had received a mortal wound, succeeded to the command of the regiment, and continued in

that rank to the end of the war; Mrs. Barnes is the fourth of her parents' children.

Mr. and Mrs. Barnes have two sons. Mell is general manager of a scale manufacturing business at Detroit and is a prosperous business man. Thomas W., who is the eighth Thomas in the Barnes family, is associated with his brother at Detroit.

JOHN F. McINTYRE.

John F. McIntyre, the president and general manager of the Sherwood Heading Company of Sherwood, has in an active business career manifested keen sagacity and diligence which are always essential elements in a successful enterprise. He is a native of Alabama township, Genesee county, New York, born on the 6th of April, 1840. His father, Daniel McIntyre, was a native of Lyme, Connecticut, while the grandparents were born in Scotland. David McIntyre was married to Miss Caroline Hall, a native of Lyme, Connecticut, and of English descent. They became the parents of ten children, five of whom reached adult age.

John F. McIntyre, the ninth member of the family, and the only son now living, was reared in Ashtabula county, Ohio, whither he came with his parents when a little lad of three years. He acquired a common school education, attending only through the winter months, while in the summer seasons he worked at various kinds of labor in order to provide for his own support. His mother was left a widow with nine children and as soon as old enough to earn his living John F. McIntyre started out in the world on his own account. Ambitious for an education he made the most of his opportunities when in school and by reading and study in his leisure hours largely broadened his knowledge, so that at the age of seventeen years he had qualified himself for teaching and entered upon the active work of that profession in Ashtabula county, where he taught for three or four years during winter terms. In the meantime he learned and followed the carpenter's trade in the summer months. Thinking to find a better field of labor he removed to Michigan, in 1867, settling first in Owosso and afterward in St. Johns. Later he went to Chesaning, Michigan, where he followed his trade and also taught school for two winter terms. Later he followed teaching at St. Charles, Michigan, for about three years, after which he went to Lenawee county, Michigan, and then came to Sherwood, where he was soon actively identified with building operations. He also taught school here for many years, following the profession through the winter months, while in the summer seasons he was connected with building pursuits. As an educator he has ever been practical and progressive, imparting readily to others the knowledge that he had acquired so that his services gave general satisfaction. For about fifteen years he likewise engaged in the business of evaporating apples, and in 1902, in connection with George Seymour, he purchased the business of the C. B. Wilcox Manufacturing Company. In 1905 they organized a company now known as the Sherwood Heading Company, with Mr. McIntyre as president and general man-

ager, George F. Seymour vice-president and treasurer and Guy E. McIntyre superintendent and secretary. They manufacture shack barrels and keg headings and have on the payroll the names of about twenty employes. The business has now grown to extensive proportions and has become a profitable investment, being one of the leading productive concerns of this part of the county.

Mr. McIntyre has been married twice. In 1860 he wedded Abbie Woodworth, and they had three children, of whom two are living, Ralph and May. The mother died in 1874, and in 1877 Mr. McIntyre wedded Harriet Barton, by whom he has two daughters and a son: Annie, now the wife of Lynn Lowry; Guy E., who is in business with his father; and Ada, at home.

Mr. McIntyre has been a resident of Sherwood for about thirty-one years and has been closely associated with its public interests, its improvement and its upbuilding. He has been frequently called to public office, serving as township treasurer for one term, as highway commissioner, village assessor and village trustee and his public service has been performed with the same fidelity and conscientious purpose that has characterized the discharge of his business duties. He is a member of Sherwood lodge, No. 421, A. F. & A. M., Union City chapter, No. 28, R. A. M., Three Rivers commandery, No. 29, K. T., and is in hearty sympathy with the purposes of the craft, exemplifying in his life its beneficent spirit. A long residence in the county combined with marked enterprise in business and activity in public affairs has made him well known. He is a man of much force of character, strong individuality and his pleasant social manner has won him a host of warm friends.

J. H. MONTAGUE.

J. H. Montague, who is engaged in the real estate and insurance business in Coldwater, belongs to that class of representative American citizens who owe their success to strong enterprise, close application and indefatigable diligence. He was born in Oneida county, New York, November 30, 1833, his parents being Stillman and Hannah (Skinner) Montague, both of whom were natives of Massachusetts and were representatives of old New England families. They moved to Oneida county, New York, and spent the greater part of their lives in that state, passing away there. The father was a farmer, and always followed the occupation in order to provide a livelihood for his family.

J. H. Montague was reared upon the home farm in the usual manner of farm lads of that period and locality, and in the district schools he acquired his education. He continued to assist his father up to the time of his marriage, which occurred December 22, 1858, Miss Laura Gaylord becoming his wife. He then took up his abode upon a farm in his native county, continuing agricultural interests there until 1869, when he removed to Michigan, settling in the city of Coldwater, where he has since resided. Here he turned his attention to the insurance business and has since repre-

sented a number of the old reliable companies and at the same time has dealt quite extensively in real estate, negotiating many important realty transfers.

Mr. Montague has been active in community affairs and for fourteen years he served as constable, while in 1891 he was elected justice of the peace, in which position he still serves. His decisions have been strictly fair and impartial, being based upon the equity of the case and the law applicable thereto and he has "won golden opinions from all sorts of people." His political views are in accord with the principles of the Republican party, which he has supported since casting a ballot for its presidential candidate, John C. Fremont.

Mr. and Mrs. Montague are the parents of but two children: Harold L., of Chicago; and Myrtle K., who is a teacher at the head of the German department of the Detroit University, Detroit, Michigan. Mrs. Montague is a member of the Presbyterian church and with her Mr. Montague attends its services. Fraternally he is connected with the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

MYRON J. WITHINGTON.

Myron J. Withington, formerly a factor in the work of public instruction in Michigan, but now devoting his energies to agricultural pursuits in California township, Branch county, is a native son of this county, having been born in Kinderhook township on the 15th of May, 1856. The ancestry of the family can be traced back to William Withington, great-great-grandfather of our subject, who was born in 1715 and died in 1793. The family is of English lineage and was established in Massachusetts at a very early period in the colonization of the new world. William Withington (1) was united in marriage to Sarah Locke, who was born in 1718 and died in 1797. Both she and her husband were about seventy-eight years of age at the time of their demise. Their son, William Withington (2), who was born in 1744, married Martha Locke and died in 1823. William Withington (3), grandfather of our subject, was born in New Hampshire in 1777, representatives of the name having removed from Massachusetts to New Hampshire in the meantime. He wedded Abigal Stone in 1799. She was born in 1779 and from New Hampshire they removed to Oswego county, New York. The year 1833 witnessed their arrival in Michigan, their residence being established in Homer, Calhoun county, where they remained for five years, when in 1838 they came to Kinderhook township, Branch county. They were among the earliest settlers of this part of the state, living here when it required considerable personal courage to meet the hardships, difficulties and dangers incident to life on the frontier. The forest sheltered many wild animals and the Indians were not infrequently seen. While they caused little trouble to the white settlers yet they were a source of constant menace, owing to their unreliable dispositions. The Withington family went through the usual pioneer experiences and in clearing and developing a farm for himself William Withington also assisted in the material progress of the county. He died in 1845, while his wife passed away in 1839.

Edwin Withington, father of Myron J. Withington, was born in Os-

wego county, New York, January 20, 1820, and was the youngest in a family of twelve children. When his parents removed from the Empire state to Michigan they left several married children in New York, but Edwin Withington, being next to the youngest and then but twelve years of age, came with them to the middle west and was reared upon the home farm in Calhoun and in Branch counties, sharing in the usual hardships and trials incident to frontier life. He soon became familiar with the arduous task of clearing and developing new land and was always a farmer, yet possessed considerable versatility in business matters and his mechanical ingenuity enabled him to follow successfully the pursuits of shoemaking, cooppering and carpentering. His early years were spent in Kinderhook township and in 1860 he removed to California township, where he resided until his death. He was a leading citizen here for many years and was highly esteemed as a man of more than ordinary ability, of honor in business and of loyalty in citizenship. His political allegiance was given to the Republican party. He took a deep interest in educational affairs and for many years served as a school officer, doing everything in his power to promote the cause of public instruction in this part of the state. Both he and his wife were members of the Methodist church and died in that faith, the father passing away February 28, 1897, while his wife's death occurred September 29, 1901. He had been married on the 26th of November, 1845, to Miss Ann Dorothy Walter, who was born in England, November 26, 1822, and came to America with her parents, Abraham and Dorothy (Mears) Walter, the family home being established in Fremont, Indiana. Edwin and Dorothy Withington had six children, three of whom died in infancy, while those still living are Myron J. and Homer E. Withington, of Coldwater. Another son, Levi, died at the age of seventeen years.

Myron J. Withington was but four years of age when his parents removed from Kinderhook to California township and at the usual age he began his education in the common schools, while later he entered the Coldwater high school, from which he was graduated in the class of 1879. He afterward entered the State Normal College at Ypsilanti, Michigan, from which he was graduated in 1893 and in his senior year he was editor of the college paper, The Normal News, an honor which comes in recognition of superior ability. Following his graduation at the normal he engaged in teaching school both in the district schools and in the graded schools of the city. In the profession he made rapid advancement, which came in recognition of his merit, and at different times he served as principal of the public schools at Almont, Michigan, and of the high school at Ludington, Michigan. In 1896, however, he returned to California township, where he has since followed farming. Here he has a valuable tract of land of one hundred and sixty acres, which was cleared by the father, assisted by his sons, only twenty acres having been placed under cultivation when it came into possession of Edwin Withington. It is located on section nineteen and is now a valuable and productive tract equipped with modern improvements and giving every evidence of the careful supervision and practical methods of the owner. For several years in addition to general farming Mr. Withington and his son

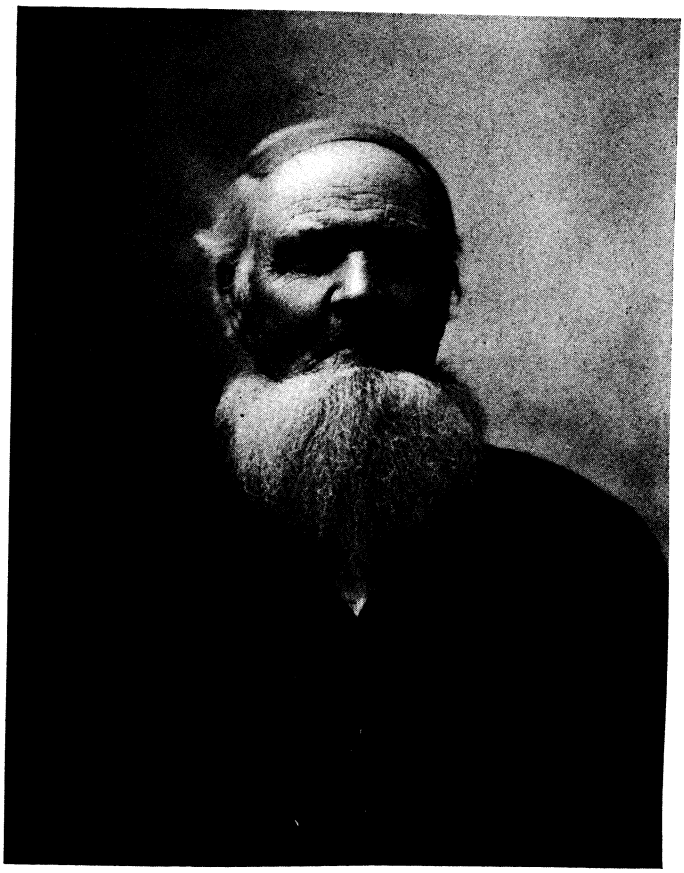
have devoted considerable attention to the raising of potatoes and their potato crop is the largest produced by any individual in this vicinity.

Mr. Withington was married October 13, 1880, to Miss Mattie King, who was born in Coldwater township, April 18, 1858, and is a daughter of William and Kate (O'Mara) King. The father was a native of England and the mother, born in Canada, was of Irish descent. In their family were eight children, of whom two died in infancy. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Withington have been born four children: Ernest E., who is living at home and assists in the operation of his father's farm, although he owns eighty acres in the northern part of California township; Mabel L., who died at the age of nine years; Harry Gerald, who died in infancy; and Harold Gerard, at home, these latter twins.

Mr. Withington is a man of keen intellect, whose reading has covered a wide range and who keeps in touch with the trend of modern thought along the various lines of interest to the general public. Sociological, economic and political questions as well as those bearing upon his chosen life work are of deep interest to him and he has informed himself thoroughly concerning many of these points. In his political views he has always been a Republican and has held numerous offices. For several years he was school inspector, was appointed to fill a vacancy in the office of supervisor and has been justice of the peace for several years. He has long taken an active part in church and Sunday school work and contributes liberally to the support of religion. He has been identified with the county and district Sunday school work and has been president and secretary of the district Sunday school association for several terms. He was also at one time a member of the Grange. A man of strong individuality and marked force of character, the salient elements of his life work with its underlying motives have been such as awaken uniform esteem. Everything that he does is characterized by an intelligent understanding of the position and he is fearless in defense of his honest views and opinions.

EZRA JOHNSON.

Ezra Johnson, who from pioneer times down to the present has been a resident of Branch county, his memory forming a connecting link between the past with its privations and hardships and the modern era with its prosperity and advanced civilization, is now living on section twelve, Union township. He is a native of Ohio, the old Buckeye state, his birth having occurred in Florence township, Erie county, on the 14th of October, 1830. His father, James Johnson, was a native of New York, but became an early settler of the Buckeye state, where he took up his abode in 1815. There he resided for many years and in 1850 he came to Branch county, Michigan, where he spent his remaining days. In early manhood he had wedded Ida Squires, who died in Ohio. She was a native of the Empire state and by her marriage she became the mother of eight children, six sons and two daughters, all of whom reached adult age and were married with one exception.



E. Zeru Johnson

Ezra Johnson, the third son and fourth member of the family, was reared in the county of his nativity until nineteen years of age and when a lad of about six summers entered the district schools, wherein he pursued the elementary branches of learning. In the summer months he worked upon the farm and his training in the fields made him well qualified to carry on farm work when he started out in life on his own account. He arrived in Branch county when a young man of nineteen years and here he began working in the woods, cutting down the trees, clearing away the brush and thus preparing many acres for the plow. In company with a companion he prepared two hundred and fifty cords of wood in one winter. He had been trained to the value of industry and perseverance in the active affairs of life and his entire career has been marked by unfaltering diligence. He can recall many incidents of pioneer times, and, once in the early days of Union township he and his friend were about one and one half miles south of Union City, and a deer started up from the bushes. Uncle Ezra had a dog which pursued the deer and caught it by one of the hind quarters, and held the deer until they came up and shot it.

Mr. Johnson was married in Union township December 7, 1853, to Miss Loretta Burnett, with whom he traveled life's journey for about forty-six years, almost a half a century. They began their domestic life upon a farm, and he has always carried on agricultural pursuits, clearing many acres of land in Branch county and erecting a number of buildings thereon. He has built houses, barns and sheds and his efforts have been a factor in producing the modern development and progress of this portion of the state. He has now been a resident of Union township for fifty-six years, save that he spent a brief period of ten months in Kansas. He owns eighty acres of good land where his son resides and his property is the visible evidence of his life of industry.

On December 21, 1899, Mr. Johnson was called upon to mourn the death of his wife. They had become the parents of six children, of whom three died in early life, while three are still living, namely: Gena, the wife of Charles Rice of Girard township, and they have three children, Lena, Glenn and Alfred. Charles, who married Mary Tandler and follows farming in Union township; and Herman, who wedded Annie Schultz and is living on the old family homestead, and they have two children, Loretta and Prosper.

Mr. Johnson has at different times voted the Democratic and the Republican tickets. He is practically independent in his political affiliation, supporting the candidates whom he regards as best qualified for office. His interest in public affairs is that of a patriotic and public spirited citizen and he rejoices in what has been accomplished in Branch county. Numbered among its pioneer settlers, he can remember the time when the forests were infested with wild animals and when considerable wild game could be had by the hunter. The trees stood in their primeval strength and only here and there could be seen a cabin to indicate the advance of civilization. In the work of transformation that has since been wrought Mr. Johnson has performed his full share as an agriculturist and now in his later years—for

he has passed the seventy-fifth milestone on life's journey—he is enabled to enjoy many of the comforts and luxuries of life while leaving to his son the active work of the farm.

RICHMOND F. PARKER.

Richmond F. Parker, a retired farmer living at Coldwater, whose carefully conducted business interests and recognition of opportunities have made him a prosperous citizen, was born at Hinckley, Medina county, Ohio, April 15, 1836, his parents being John and Olive (Foster) Parker. The father was born in Ontario county, New York, March 18, 1793, and the ancestry is traced back through Stiles, Elijah and Phineas to James H. Parker, who was one of the several children whose parents were the founders of the name in America. They became residents of the colony of Massachusetts, where they were murdered by the Indians, their children escaping by hiding in the tall grass. The ancestral history is also traceable through many generations in England, where definite information is obtainable concerning Lord Parker of Macclesfield, a direct ancestor of the branch of the family founded in the new world.

Stiles Parker, the grandfather of Richmond F. Parker, was a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church. He married Demmis Caples and subsequently removed from the state of New York to Summit county, Ohio, accepting a pastorate in the town of Richfield, where he remained for several years. He afterward went to Delaware county, Ohio, where his last days were spent. His life was marked by unselfish devotion to the moral elevation of his fellowmen and his influence was widely felt, remaining as a blessed benediction to those who knew him long after he had passed away. The marriage of John Parker and Olive Foster was celebrated in 1813, in the state of New York, where Miss Foster was born in 1796. For some time after their marriage they lived in the Empire state and then removed to Kentucky, settling near Elizabethtown, where the father followed the trade of wagon-making, which he had learned in early life. He was thus connected with industrial interests in the Blue Grass state for ten years and on the expiration of that period became a resident of Summit county, Ohio, where he engaged in building and was also an operator of water power mills. Finally disposing of his interests at that place he came to Michigan in 1845 and for four years thereafter resided in Hillsdale county, where he followed farming. In 1849 he became a resident of Branch county and in Union township he built and again operated a sawmill, but after a brief period he sold that plant and returned to Ohio, where he resided until 1860. He then again came to Michigan, spending his last days in the home of his son Richmond F. in Girard township, where he died in March, 1865. His estimable wife also spent the evening of her life in the home of her son and passed away in 1871. They were industrious, energetic people, possessing many commendable traits of character which won for them the respect and esteem of all who knew them in the various localities in which they lived. They had eleven sons and five daughters, namely: Alpheus B., Huldah L., Matilda H., Simon Peter,

Paul C., Minerva L., Ransom R., Olive Marilda, William Stiles, John Wesley, George W., Oliver H., Richmond Foster, Silas L. and Cyrus L., twins, and Martha Jane. Of this family Alpheus and Cyrus died in infancy, while the others reached years of maturity and with the exception of Silas all were married. Silas served his country in the Civil war as a member of Company B, Forty-fourth Illinois Infantry, and was killed at the battle of Stone River. He had been mustered in as sergeant and for gallant conduct was promoted through successive ranks to a captaincy. He was leading his command in battle when he was killed. The father was a soldier in the war of 1812.

Richmond F. Parker was nine years of age when with his parents he went to Hillsdale county, Michigan. He acquired a district school education and remained under the parental roof until he was eighteen years of age, although during much of this time he worked as a farm hand in the neighborhood. In 1854 he began learning the millwright's trade, which he followed in connection with carpentering until 1860, and then with the capital he had saved from his earnings he purchased a tract of land of forty acres in Girard township. Building a log cabin thereon he then began to cultivate and improve his farm and was engaged in general agricultural pursuits until after the inauguration of the Civil war, when directed by a spirit of loyalty and patriotism he offered his services in defense of the Union. On the 7th of August, 1862, he became a member of Company C, Nineteenth Michigan Infantry, with which he served until the close of the war, being chief bugler of the regiment and during the last fourteen months of his services he was stationed at brigade headquarters. He was present at the battles of Resaca, Cassville, Dallas Woods, New Hope Church, Gilgal Church, Culp's Farm, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, Siege of Atlanta, Savannah, Aversboro and Bentonville. He was also with Sherman on the famous march to the sea and took part in the grand review at Washington, where thousands of victorious Union soldiers marched through the streets of the capital city, carrying aloft the banners of victory as they passed by the stand on which the president reviewed the nation's army. He was mustered out with his regiment on the 10th day of June, 1865, and he still has in his possession the bugle which he carried through that long sanguinary conflict. He is now an honored member of Butterworth post, G. A. R.

Mr. Parker following his return from the war resumed the occupation of farming in Girard township and continued his labors there until 1883, when he sold his property and purchased the farm on which now stands the plant of the Wolverine Portland Cement Company, to which concern he sold his land in 1890. Since that time he has lived retired, enjoying a well earned rest to which his long years of active labor justly entitles him. Mr. Parker was married January 1, 1857, to Miss Caroline Fauble, who was born in Bristol, Wayne county, Ohio, September 19, 1836. Her father was also a native of the Buckeye state, while her grandfather, Michael Fauble, was born in Germany. His parents brought him to America in his early boyhood and by their death soon after their arrival in this

country he was left an orphan. He was then apprenticed to learn the trade of shoemaking but later turned his attention to farming. He was married in Pennsylvania to Miss Agnes McMahan, a native of that state, and soon afterward the young couple started for Ohio, where Mr. Fauble devoted his attention to the tilling of the soil. He spent his last years in Bristol, Wayne county, Ohio, and lived to be ninety-seven years of age. Mrs. Parker's father was a life-long resident of Ohio and was an enterprising, progressive business man, owning mills and farm lands and giving his personal supervision to the operation of both. He died suddenly in 1850, while on a business trip to Galesburg, Illinois. His wife, who was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, lived to be eighty-five years of age. She bore the maiden name of Jane Halliwill and was a daughter of William and Elizabeth (Cox) Halliwill, natives of Pennsylvania and Virginia respectively and representatives of old and well known families of the east. The maternal grandmother of Mrs. Parker at one time had the honor of entertaining General Washington at dinner during the Revolutionary war. Mr. and Mrs. Parker have a large circle of warm friends and enjoy the hospitality of many of the best homes of Coldwater and Branch county. He has always been a staunch Republican but has never sought office, although in matters of citizenship he is progressive and is today as loyal to the general good as he was when he followed the nation's starry banner upon southern battlefields.

CHARLES W. STAFFORD.

Charles W. Stafford, a prominent farmer residing on section fifteen, Union township, has a tract of land of one hundred and eighty-nine acres which is splendidly improved with modern equipments. A native of Calhoun county, Michigan, Mr. Stafford was born February 5, 1843. His father, Hosea Stafford, was a native of St. Lawrence county, New York, and on removing to the west settled in Burlington township, Calhoun county, Michigan, about 1836. He became one of the pioneers of that locality and there followed the occupation of farming, assisting in the early development of that portion of the state. About 1848 he removed to Branch county, taking up his abode in Union township, where he spent his remaining days, passing away at the age of seventy-two years. In his political views he was a Whig until the dissolution of the party, when he became a staunch Republican. He married Philura Wilson, a native of New York, in which state she spent the first sixteen years of her life and then came with her parents to Michigan, the family home being established in Burlington township, Calhoun county. She is still living at the very advanced age of eighty-seven years. To her husband she was a faithful companion and helpmate all through the pioneer times and in the period of later day progress and development when they were enabled to enjoy many more of the comforts and pleasures of life than they had in their earlier years. In their family were eight children, one of whom died in early life, while another died at the age of eighteen years. Six of the family are still living.

Charles W. Stafford, the third in order of birth and the eldest son, was

about five years old when brought by his parents to Branch county. He was reared in Union township, acquiring a common school education in one of the old time log schoolhouses. He remained at home until he had attained his majority and during that period assisted largely in the improvement of the farm. He then offered his services to his country and engaged in the Civil war, becoming a member of Company D, First Michigan Light Artillery in 1861. He remained with that command for three years and then veteranized, re-enlisting in the same company and regiment, with which he continued for about ten months longer. He was quartermaster sergeant at the time of his discharge. He participated in a number of important battles, including the engagements of Stone River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and others. He was in the hospital at Louisville, Kentucky, for about three months, but otherwise was continuously with his regiment throughout the long term of his service, covering almost four years. He was a faithful soldier, displaying valor on the field of battle and loyalty at all times to the cause which he espoused.

After receiving an honorable discharge Mr. Stafford returned to Union township and resumed general farming, which pursuit he has since followed with excellent success. He is now the owner of one hundred and eighty-nine acres of rich and arable land which is well improved with good buildings. The place is kept up according to modern farming methods and yields to him a good financial return each year.

On April 28, 1874, Mr. Stafford was married to Miss Margaret C. Harsh, a daughter of Adam and Susanna (Mintling) Harsh, and they have two sons, Roy and Ralph, who are assisting their father in the improvement of the home farm. Mr. Stafford has taken an active and helpful interest in public matters, his co-operation being freely given for the support of measures and movements for the general good. In politics he is a staunch Republican and in 1899 was elected supervisor, while for four years he served as township treasurer. He is a member of the Masonic lodge and chapter at Union City, active in its work and in hearty sympathy with the tenets and teachings of the craft. He has been a resident of Union township for about fifty-six years and is one of the men who have made the county what it is today. He has worked persistently and energetically year after year in the conduct of his business interests, and has thereby contributed to the sum total of prosperity in this part of the state. He made a creditable military record and his life history is equally commendable in its business and social relations.

HENRY D. KNAUSS.

Among the leading and reliable families of German descent living in Branch county, none has achieved more notable success or stands higher in the public regard than that of Knauss. Its members have achieved success in various lines of endeavor and are now leading people here. This family is descended from Dr. Daniel Knauss, who came from Baden, Germany, he being the paternal grandfather of our subject. He was a soldier

in the Revolutionary war, and Mr. Knauss now has a snuff box which he carried while serving in that struggle. He also has a ponderous German Bible which was published in 1765; also a Ready Reckoner Calculator, published in 1794, and a piece of the old Continental scrip money to the value of two-thirds of a dollar. This was printed in 1776. Mrs. Knauss has one of the old-fashioned spinning wheels and reels which is in a good state of preservation. These are well remembered by the pioneer mothers. Dr. Knauss was married in Germany to a Miss Moyer, and soon thereafter they came to America, locating in Pennsylvania, where seven children were born to them, one of these, Solomon Knauss, being the father of our subject.

Solomon Knauss was born in Northampton county, Pennsylvania, December 17, 1790, and he was married to Sarah Moore, also a native of Pennsylvania. The Moore family came originally from England. Solomon Knauss and Sarah Moore removed from Pennsylvania to Erie county, Ohio, in 1848, where they passed the remainder of their lives. They had twelve children, three of whom died in infancy, the others being as follows: William Knauss of Erie county, Ohio; Julia Smith and Elizabeth Boyer live in Sandusky county, Ohio; Charles died in Illinois, July 13, 1901; Mary Billsmeyer lives at Cambridge, Michigan; Solomon died in 1865; Henry D. is the subject of this review; Samuel is a resident of Coldwater, Michigan; James lives in Kinderhook. Of this family two sons, Charles and James, were in Ohio regiments in the Civil war. The father and mother both died in Ohio, the former June 2, 1865, and the latter July 10, 1875. Solomon Knauss was a highly prosperous farmer in Ohio, owning three hundred and seventy acres of fertile land, and both he and his wife were members of the German Lutheran church.

Henry D. Knauss was born in Union county, Pennsylvania, October 26, 1838, and he was reared upon the home farm, assisting his father in the clearing of the place and remaining at home until he was twenty-two years old. He was married there November 20, 1860, to Permelia L. Drake, who was born in Steuben county, New York, June 10, 1842. Her father was Leonard Drake, who was born in Pompey, Onondaga county, New York, May 14, 1804, and her mother was Elizabeth Cleveland, born in Argyle, Vermont, September 16, 1807. They were married in New York state November 16, 1825, and had nine children, all of whom grew to maturity as follows: Elizabeth White lives in Illinois; Sarah Smith died in Iowa in 1902; Alpheus died in the west; Dyar lives in Iowa; Hezekiah lives in Rochester, Indiana; Permelia is the wife of our subject; Asa and Charles live in Nebraska; Lovina Board lives in Kinderhook. The father, Leonard Drake, died in Kinderhook, October 17, 1892, his wife passing away previously in Ohio, September 9, 1877. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, while her husband was a Universalist.

Henry D. Knauss early learned the essential principles of agriculture and decided upon this as a life pursuit. He owned a farm in Ohio, which he improved and which he sold and purchased his present fine place of one hundred and sixty-one acres on section two, Kinderhook township, in 1877, coming here on October 9th of that year. Here he has lived ever

since, with the exception of a year's residence at Fremont, Indiana, this being in 1903. He has cleared a portion of his present farm and made many improvements thereon and it is now one of the comfortable and attractive farm homes of this portion of the county.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Knauss has been blessed with the birth of five children, one of whom, a son, died in infancy, the others being as follows: Ida L., married Frank Dewey and they have one daughter, Neva, their home being at Fremont, Indiana; Della, another daughter, married George Lazenby and they live in Coldwater, having one daughter, Bernice; they have a farm in Gilead, but moved to the city to educate their daughter; Nellie married John Morgan and their home is in Fremont, Indiana, they having one son, Max Henry; Harry, the youngest son, was a student in the Fremont high school and took a year's course at the Indiana Business College. Now he is finishing at the Huntingdon (Indiana) Business University. He shows great business and executive ability and is receiving a most thorough education and training for a business and commercial career.

Mr. Knauss's sterling worth of character has led to his selection upon numerous occasions to fill public positions of trust and responsibility, he possessing the entire confidence of his fellow townsmen. He has been township treasurer and drain commissioner for several terms and has been a school district officer for more than thirty years here and in Ohio. His very sensible political motto is: "Anything for the best interests of the people," and he abides by it. He has been very successful in the line of general farming, specializing in good live stock, and he and his estimable wife are highly regarded in the community where they have lived for so many years.

GEORGE MONROE.

George Monroe, following the occupation of farming on section thirty-six, Matteson township, is a native son of Branch county, his birth having occurred on the 19th of July, 1854, on the old family homestead in Matteson township, where his father had located at an early day. He is a son of Jesse Monroe, a native of New York, who was reared in the east but before his marriage came west to Michigan, settling in Branch county. He returned to New York, however, and was there married to Hannah Merritt, the widow of Isaac Mills. With his bride he returned to Branch county, settling in Matteson township where he purchased a farm. Later he bought the farm upon which his son George now resides and took up his abode thereon. At the present time he is living retired from active business cares, now making his home in Bronson. He was one of the pioneer settlers of Branch county and was closely identified with its early development and improvement, aiding in laying the foundation upon which the present prosperity and progress of the county has been built. He was born March 20, 1821, and is therefore eighty-four years of age. He is well known in the county and is respected and esteemed by all with whom he has come in contact. In his business affairs he prospered and became the owner of one thousand acres of land. In the family

were three children: Wallace, who is a hardware merchant living in Bronson; George, of this review; and William, who is engaged as a banker in Bronson. The mother was three times married, her first union being with Mr. Gorham, by whom she had one child, Mary, now the wife of Alexander Anderson, of Michigan. Her second marriage was to Isaac Mills, by whom she had two sons: Delbert Mills, who is living in Batavia township, Branch county; and Adolphus Mills, who spent his entire life in Matteson township but has now passed away.

George Monroe, the second son, was reared in his native township and was educated in the schools of the townships of Matteson and of Bronson. He remained at home through the period of his youth, assisting in the labors of the farm and gaining a practical knowledge of the best methods of cultivating the fields, so that he was well qualified to undertake farm work for himself after he attained his majority. He was married December 25, 1877, to Miss Lottie Sanderson, a daughter of Joel and Mary (Legg) Sanderson, the former a native of Vermont and the latter of England. They were married in Ohio and came to Branch county, Michigan, about 1845, settling near Fawn River. Mrs. Monroe was born in Greenfield, Indiana, November 15, 1857. Her father located in Ohio, but removed from there to Fawn River, Michigan, and Mrs. Monroe was educated in the schools of Lima and in the La Grange Collegiate Institute at Ontario, Indiana. Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Monroe located upon the farm which is now their home, and where Mr. Monroe has maintained his residence for twenty-eight years. Three sons came to bless this union: Clarence, who married Cora Sager, lives in Matteson township, where he owns and operates a farm of one hundred and twenty acres. Irving married Florence Parke, by whom he has one son, Harold Elwood, and they reside on section thirty-six, Matteson township. Carlton J. is living at home with his parents.

Mr. Monroe owns a farm of four hundred and twenty acres, and each of his sons is working one hundred and twenty acres. He also has property in Bronson valued at twenty-five hundred dollars. He has been a very successful business man, engaged in the raising of grain and stock, and his labors have been attended with a gratifying measure of prosperity, for he is energetic, industrious and practical in all that he does. Mr. Monroe has been a life-long resident of Branch county, always making his home within the borders of Matteson township, and his labors have contributed in substantial measure to the public good. He has always voted with the Republican party and is deeply interested in its growth and success. His wife is a member of the Baptist church at Bronson and both are well known people, enjoying the friendly regard and esteem of those with whom they have come in contact.

AUGUSTUS C. MOSELEY.

Augustus C. Moseley, to whom has been vouchsafed an honorable retirement from business cares as a reward for his close application and earnest labor in former years, is now living in Burlington township, Calhoun

county, Michigan. He was born in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, May 6, 1835. His father, Thomas Moseley, was likewise a native of the old Bay state and in his business career followed merchandising and milling. He came to Branch county, Michigan, in 1840, and was a prominent business man here. He established a blast furnace at Union City, which he conducted for several years and he instituted a number of the pioneer enterprises here. He was a member of the Congregational church, taking a most active and helpful part in its work and contributing most generously toward the building of the house of worship. His name headed the subscription list for the sum of five hundred dollars and later he gave an added sum of fifty dollars toward the purchase of the bell. His early political views accorded with Whig principles and upon the organization of the new Republican party to prevent the further extension of slavery he joined its ranks and followed its banners until called to his final rest in his seventy-third year. In early manhood he married a Miss Tillotson and after her death wedded Maria Tillotson, a native of Connecticut, who died in Union City when more than eighty years of age. By the first marriage there were five children and six children were born of the second marriage, A. C. Moseley being the eldest of the younger group.

Although a native of New England Mr. Moseley of this review was largely reared in Michigan and New York. He was a lad of five summers when taken to Ann Arbor in 1840, and in 1844 he went to Union City, being at that time nine years of age. Later he was brought to this county and was reared upon the place where he now lives. His education was acquired in the early schools of the period and he remained at home until he attained his majority.

On the 6th of November, 1856, Mr. Moseley was united in marriage to Miss Fannie Bowen Corbin, a daughter of Ezbond and Lucretia (Howe) Corbin. She was born in Charleston, New Hampshire, September 20, 1837, of old Revolutionary stock, who hailed from Connecticut. The early progenitors of the Corbins were of French parentage, their history dating back to the time of the Norman conquest, when William the Conqueror defeated the Britons at the historical battle of Hastings in 1066. There are grave-stones yet standing in the cemetery of Woodstock, Connecticut, bearing the following dates of the deceased Corbins: 1696, 1721 and 1727. Mrs. Moseley and General Corbin of the Philippines are distant relatives. Mrs. Moseley came to Michigan in 1855. Her sisters, Mrs. Isaac Tower and Mrs. Martha Crissy, were then living in Union City, and Mrs. Moseley arrived here when eighteen years of age. At the time of their marriage the young couple began their domestic life on a farm adjoining Union City on the north, the land lying in Burlington township, Calhoun county, and there they have maintained their residence for nearly a half century. He formerly owned six hundred acres of valuable land in this farm, but has since disposed of much of this, retaining possession, however, of one hundred eighty-five acres, which he now rents. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Moseley were born two children, but both are now deceased.

Mr. Moseley voted for Fremont when casting his first presidential

ballot, and only once has he voted for other than the candidates at the head of the Republican ticket. He and his wife are members of the Congregational church and have taken an active and helpful interest in its work. During a long residence here Mr. Moseley has gained a wide acquaintance, and by earnest purpose and unfaltering diligence in his business affairs he became one of the extensive land owners and prosperous farmers of his community. He and his wife are today enjoying a well-earned rest, having a handsome competency, which supplies them with all of the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

HENRY HAMMAN.

Henry Hamman, a prosperous and respected farmer of California township, was born in Smithfield township, DeKalb county, Indiana, on the 21st of February, 1855. His father, Thomas Hamman, was a native of Stark county, Ohio, born in 1823. He lost his father when but fifteen years of age and then started out in life on his own account, so that he was truly a self-made man, owing his success entirely to well-directed and earnest effort. In the year 1850 he was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Sheuler, who was born in York county, Pennsylvania, and went to DeKalb county, Indiana, in an early day with her stepfather, Adam Hood. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hamman were of German descent. On leaving the Buckeye state, Thomas Hamman removed to DeKalb county, Indiana, in 1847, and there purchased a tract of new land in the midst of the forest, his home being several miles from the nearest neighbor. His dwelling, erected in 1849, was the first frame house in Smithfield township. He was always a leader in the work of agricultural progress and his earnest and effective labors were attended with a gratifying measure of success. From early morning until after sunset he worked untiringly in his effort to clear and improve his farm and in the first six years he cleared and cultivated sixty acres. He afterward cleared one hundred and forty acres and as the years passed by he prospered owing to his capable management, his frugality and his unfaltering diligence, and at the time of his death he was the owner of three hundred and twelve acres of valuable land. In his political views he was a Democrat and could have had various local offices, but many times he refused to become a candidate, not wishing to serve in official positions. However, he acted as school officer for many years and the cause of education found in him a warm and stalwart friend. He died on the 8th of August, 1897, at the age of seventy-four years and his wife passed away about 1901. They were devoted members of the German Reformed church. In their family were nine children, of whom three died in infancy; Samuel, who died in 1883; Caroline, who died at the age of twenty-two years; John, who is living in Indiana; Henry, of this review; Thomas and Simon, who are residents of the Hoosier state.

Henry Hamman remained at home until twenty-eight years of age, acquiring a public school education and becoming familiar with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. As the years passed he became more and more proficient in his farm labor and ultimately took

charge of his father's farm, which he continued to cultivate until twenty-eight years of age, when he removed from Indiana to Michigan, settling on section sixteen, California township, where he now has a fine farm of one hundred and fifty-five acres. When he decided to remove to this state he was the owner of farm land in Indiana and he traded it for property here. He first had one hundred and twenty acres which had been cleared, but many of the improvements now found thereon stand as monuments to his thrift and enterprise. There was much stone upon the farm and he spent many years in clearing it. He has the four largest stone piles in southern Michigan, one measuring eighty-five by eighty feet and seven feet in height, while another pile is one hundred and fifty-two feet long and thirty feet wide and eight feet high. These stone piles contain three thousand sixty-eight loads of stone, nearly all of which has been picked up by Mr. Hamman. The farm is today a well-kept one with good buildings and the latest improved machinery is used to facilitate the work of the fields. An air of neatness, thrift and industry characterizes the place and altogether the property is a most desirable one.

On the 22nd of February, 1883, Mr. Hamman was united in marriage to Miss Mary Rohm, who was born in DeKalb county, Indiana, September 23, 1864. Her father, Simon Rohm, was a native of Germany and the family became pioneer settlers of Smithfield township, DeKalb county, Indiana. The mother, who bore the maiden name of Mary Harsh, was born in Ohio and was of German descent. There were thirteen children in the Rohm family, of whom five died in infancy, the others being Henry, now a resident of Oregon; Amos, Simon, John, Ezra, Mrs. Lydia Hamman and Mrs. Lucinda Duesler, all residents of Indiana; and Mrs. Mary Hamman, wife of our subject. The father died in 1880 and the mother, yet surviving him, now makes her home in Indiana. Both were members of the German Reformed church.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hamman have been born four children: Carlton H., who died in infancy; Viola May, the wife of Charles McMurray, a resident of this township, by whom she has one daughter, Roselene Pearl; Eliza Blanche, the wife of Arthur Hall, a resident farmer of California township; and Estell Starr, living at home. The family belong to the United Brethren church. Mr. Hamman gives his political support to the Democracy and has served as school moderator for several terms. During the years of his residence in this county he has so directed his life as to win the unqualified confidence of his fellowmen. Moreover his record proves the value of industry and determination as resultant factors in the winning of success. With little assistance as he started out in life he has labored persistently and is today the owner of a well-kept and valuable farm.

HENRY E. STRAIGHT.

The roster of county officials bears the name of Henry E. Straight, who is now serving as clerk of Branch county. He is one of its native sons, born in Coldwater township, December 26, 1864, his parents being

Willard P. and Mary E. (White) Straight, who were born, reared and married in New York. The father was married twice, the mother of our subject being his second wife. He removed from the Empire state to Branch county, Michigan, and soon afterward his first wife died in the east. Following his second marriage he again came to this county and spent much of his life upon a farm here. He was a well educated man of strong native intellectual force and marked ability and for many years he engaged in teaching in the public schools. His wives were also successful teachers. Mr. Straight departed this life in the fall of 1899, at the age of seventy-seven years, and is survived by his second wife, who is now living in Coldwater. There are three children of that marriage.

Henry E. Straight was reared upon his father's farm and in his youth was a student in the district schools. Subsequently he entered the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso, from which he was graduated when about twenty years of age, and later he engaged in teaching school for four or five years. He also spent three years in the Ypsilanti school, after which he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. In the fall of 1904 he was elected county clerk, and is now filling that position in a capable and efficient manner.

Mr. Straight was married in 1900 to Miss Sadie B. De Pue and they have three children. Mr. Straight is a Republican, interested in the success and growth of his party and fraternally he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Starting out in life with no financial assistance he became imbued with a laudable ambition to attain something better than he had already known and he has steadily advanced in those walks demanding intellectuality, business ability and fidelity, so that he to-day commands the respect and esteem of all with whom he has been brought in contact. In the record of his public career or in private life there falls no shadow of wrong for he has ever been loyal to the ties of friendship and citizenship.

GEORGE W. MALLOW.

Branch county has been built up to its present status of wealth and material prosperity, to a highly organized civic community from a pioneer and primitive community in which the settlers had to hew out places of dwelling and cultivable fields from the wilderness and where the first and foremost object was to obtain means of subsistence. Noble township, now one of the richest of the county divisions, both in material wealth and in the quality of its citizens, received in the year 1841 a substantial addition to its citizenship of pioneers in the persons of Peter and Margaret (Peters) Mallow, whose son is George W. Mallow, one of the representative farmers of Branch county.

The famous province of Alsace-Lorraine, so often in dispute between the rival nations of France and Germany, was the native home of those parents, so that they were of the sturdy Teutonic stock which has entered into American life as one of its most energizing factors. On arriving in America the parents came direct to Michigan and settled on the farm in Noble

township, Branch county, where they removed the conditions of primitive wilderness by persistent labor, where continuing for many years the father engaged in farming, and where the family of children were reared to healthy and worthy manhood and womanhood. At the time of the father's death the following memorial was written: "Mr. Peter Mallow, a brief notice of whose death appeared in last week's *Journal,* was born in the province of Alsace, then belonging wholly to France, on the 10th day of November, 1815, a little less than five months after the battle of Waterloo was fought. He died June 17, 1891, at the age of seventy-five years, seven months and seven days, of cancer in the stomach. On the first day of March, 1838, he was married to Miss Margaret Peters, who was also born and reared in Alsace, one of the old battlefields of Europe. In December, 1839, they came to America, living in New York City until the spring of 1840, when they came to Michigan and settled in the township of Noble, where he lived until the death of his wife, which occurred on the 17th day of July, 1884, at the age of sixty-five years, five months and eight days. Since the death of the companion of his youth Mr. Mallow has lived with his youngest daughter, Mrs. Mary A. Kline, in Bronson township, where he died, and where his funeral service was held. He was the father of nine children, one of whom, the oldest, died at the age of ten years. The others are all settled within convenient distance of the old home, and were all permitted to be present at the funeral service, the five sons and oldest grandson acting as pallbearers. The names of the eight surviving children are Peter, William, Henry, Cristina, Sarah F., George W., Mary A. and John J., all of whom are married and comfortably settled in life. Mr. Mallow was one of a family of five brothers and sisters, only one of whom, a brother, now survives him. This brother, John, was present at the funeral. Mr. Mallow was one of our pioneers, having settled in Noble township more than a half a century ago. With others he endured the hardships and privations incident to a new country, and in the end received his due reward. His first purchase in real estate, after coming to Branch county, was an eighty-acre farm in the midst of the dense wilderness that then covered this part of the county. To this he added, from time to time as his means increased, until he became owner of one thousand two hundred acres of fine,improved land, divided into several farms of convenient size, now occupied by his children. The esteem in which he was held was well attested by the number present and interest manifested, at his funeral. Though the day was dark and rainy, the house was well filled, several of those present coming from long distances. The faces of quite a number of the old settlers were seen in the audience, who know, by an actual experience, what the privations of pioneer life are, and who are now enjoying the peaceable fruits of honest toil. The remains were laid to rest in the beautiful little cemetery in the 'Dutch settlement,' where a family lot had been previously prepared and a nice monument erected. It was here that his beloved wife had been previously buried, and now they are quietly sleeping, side by side. Of them it may be said, as of an aged pair in olden time, 'There was Abraham buried, and Sarah his wife.'"

Born on the farm April 7, 1854, spending his boyhood there in alternation between farm work and farm joys and attendance at the district school, George W. Mallow was a farmer "to the manner born" by the time he had reached majority and soon took charge of the home place and cultivated its fields on the shares. Four years having been profitably occupied in this manner, he moved to his present farm of one hundred and twenty acres, a portion of which is fine timber land, and here a beautiful home with attractive surroundings of well cultivated fields and improvements stamp the owner and his family as people of culture and refinement as well as thrift.

A Democrat in politics from the time he cast his first presidential vote for Tilden, he has regularly supported that party, and as a public-spirited citizen he has been chosen to the office of justice of the peace, serving one term. Fraternally he is a member of Mystic Lodge, F. & A. M., at Bronson.

September 29, 1878, Mr. Mallow married Miss Alice J. Lane, who was born in Akron, Ohio, February 25, 1853, a daughter of Cornelius W. and Margaret E. (Reyer) Lane. In their family were five children, four sons and one daughter, of whom three are living: Mrs. Mallow, the eldest, who was reared in Kent, Ohio, there receiving her education in the graded schools; William Lane, a resident of Bronson, Michigan, and married; and George, a resident of Bronson township. The father, Cornelius Lane, was born in Sussex county, New Jersey, while the mother was born in Springfield, Ohio, in April, 1828. She was reared in Pennsylvania, and was married there in Lewistown. With her husband she came to Branch county in March, 1876, and has been a resident of this county since, now residing in Bronson township. At the time of her husband's death the following obituary was written: Died, in Bronson, August 1st, Mr. Cornelius W. Lane, aged sixty-seven years. Mr. Lane was born December 10, 1823, in Sussex county, New Jersey. At the age of eighteen years he was bereft of his mother, and of his father, Mr. G. W. Lane, in 1854. In early manhood he removed to Snyder county, Pennsylvania, where he resided some years, and was united in marriage to Margaret E. Boyes, July 22, 1849, by whom five children were born. The two eldest died, one at the age of six months, the second in his eighteenth year. Three are yet living, Alice, William and George. For several months he suffered intensely and that in full consciousness, and with the power of another life upon him, entered into that rest for which he had longed during the wearisome days of pain. He was a good man, of warm sympathies, seeking to do his whole duties to others as he could. He was a great reader of papers, of books and of the Bible, and believed in the final salvation of the human family. He was also a member for years of the Masonic fraternity, who, in large numbers, were present at his funeral, and assisted at the services, and thus he passed away as he had lived, surrounded by friends, in trust toward God, in love for humanity, and as if in full view of the heavenly home. A large concourse of friends were present at the services, which were conducted by Rev. Henry Shepard of Burr Oak. No words are needful from us for those whose character is better than any monument. All that he has nourished thus will last,

but our heart goes out for those who will miss the placid face we saw so composed for its last rest, while all that animated it lives forever.

One child, Lorana E., has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Mallow, who was educated in the common schools and who passed her teacher's examination at the age of fifteen years, has also been instructed in music, and is a graduate student, keeping well informed on the passing current events of the day. In this family is also a niece, Frances R., who has made her home with them since childhood and is loved by them as a daughter. She is a daughter of the late Louisa Eggleston Mallow and Peter, the oldest brother of Mr. Mallow, and was educated in the rural schools. Mr. and Mrs. Mallow are citizens of Bronson township, who enjoy the high respect of all who know them. Their comfortable home is a home of hospitality and good cheer, and we are pleased to present this full text of Mr. and Mrs. Mallow to be preserved in the genealogical record of Branch county's twentieth century history.

EDWIN R. CLARKE.

Edwin R. Clarke, for many years one of the forceful and honored factors in commercial circles in Coldwater and one whose influence was not a minor element among the financiers of this part of the state, attained to prominence through the inherent force of his character, the exercise of his native talent and the utilization of surrounding opportunities. He became a capitalist whose business career excited the admiration and won the respect of his contemporaries, yet it was not this alone that entitled him to rank as one of the foremost men of his day in Coldwater. His connection with the public interests of the city was far-reaching and beneficial, his patriotic citizenship and his interest in community affairs taking tangible form in his zealous labors for various improvements.

Mr. Clarke was born in Byron, New York, March 22, 1828, and represented an old New England family. His paternal grandparents were Stephen C. and Thirza Clarke, natives of Connecticut. Their son, Anson Clarke, was born in Connecticut, in 1803, and after reaching manhood engaged both in farming and merchandising. In 1834 he decided to come to the west and cast in his lot with the pioneer settlers of the territory of Michigan. He had previously married Miss Lucinda Stevens, a Vermont lady, who was born in 1803, and who accompanied her husband to Michigan, and surviving him, she died at her home in Adrian, this state, in 1884. She was a devout Christian and discharged all her duties as wife, mother and friend in such manner as to win the deepest affection from all who came within the influence of her gentle and exemplary life.

Edwin R. Clarke came of a sturdy and vigorous New England ancestry and while his parents bestowed upon him little of this world's goods they gave him a strong constitution and a courageous spirit which carried with it a determination and an industry which wrought results. There is little in the history of a man in the bare statement of facts that is of interest, but an analyzation of his history, showing forth the spirit, the motives, the purposes and the aims that have given inspiration, direction and energy

to that life, is of value. Looked at from this viewpoint, Mr. Clarke's career furnishes important lessons that may well be followed by young and old. He started out upon his business career as a clerk in the store of James Armitage, in Monroe, Michigan, at a salary of fifty dollars per year, and the second year he received seventy-five dollars. He had as the foundation for progress, however, the substantial qualities of prudence, perseverance, industry and faithfulness. Ambitious for success, he eagerly availed himself of every opportunity for honorable accomplishment and in 1850 he came to Coldwater, where he began merchandising on his own account. His capital, saved from his earnings, was small, but he formed a partnership with a Mr. Sackett and established a general store. Not long afterward he purchased his partner's interest and became sole proprietor, conducting the store alone for several years, when he was joined by his father-in-law, John T. Gilbert. Later George D. Ford became a partner, both of whom retired from the company, and in 1878 Morris G. was admitted, and in 1881 Ralph E. was admitted to an interest, and the firm style of E. R. Clarke & Company has since been maintained. A short time before his death, which occurred in September, 1900, he practically retired from active business cares. He was very successful in his undertakings and amassed a goodly estate.

Though the early years constituted a period of struggle, he was diligent and gave close attention to every indication pointing to prosperity. There are some people born to command and Mr. Clarke was one of these. When he made a statement of what he wished done those who served him knew they must obey. Yet he was never harsh or austere, but possessed a spirit of firmness that gave him command over men and proved a strong element in his success. He did not confine his attention entirely to his mercantile interests, for he was at one time connected with the Coldwater Woolen Mills, the Crippen Flour Mills and other enterprises. He was one of the organizers of the Southern Michigan National Bank, of which he served as vice-president, and also became the owner of several valuable farms, and in his latter days gave much attention to the management of his agricultural interests and investments.

While devoted to his business and the acquirement of property, he was yet a most generous man, giving wisely but generously, and instead of allowing himself to become sordid and selfish as the years passed by, he developed his humanitarian spirit and found great joy in giving for the benefit of others. He made no display of his charity; on the contrary was free from all ostentation in his benefactions, hardly letting his left hand know what his right hand did. His desire to assist others, however, found its highest expression in his gift to the people of Coldwater of the public library building. In this he showed the business habits of the man. He wished to do something for the people among whom his life had been passed and he began to study out what kind of a building might prove most beneficial to Coldwater. After discussing the subject with prominent men of the city, he secured plans, specifications and estimates of the cost of a library building, and when he was satisfied that his income justified him in undertaking

the work he informed the library board that with their consent he would erect a suitable building on the ground owned by the city, and bound himself to the board to build it and present it to the city thoroughly equipped for the purpose intended. This offer was accepted and highly appreciated. He carried out his pledge and it was thus that the city of Coldwater was supplied with a library building that is an ornament, as well as serving a most useful purpose. In other ways he has promoted the public welfare, being the champion of all movements that he deemed would prove beneficial to city or county.

In politics Mr. Clarke was a Republican, but never sought or desired political preferment. He was ever a staunch friend and supporter of school and church interests and although not a member, regularly attended the services of the Presbyterian church. His interest, however, centered in his home and family and he desired above all else to be a worthy example to his children and that they should grow up to be a credit to their name and the city in which they lived. They have come to cherish his memory as something most dear and precious, and it is also enshrined in the hearts of many friends, while the community regarded his death as a public loss and one to be deeply deplored.

Upon reaching manhood and when ready to establish a home of his own, Mr. Clarke sought in marriage the hand of Miss Sarah E. Gilbert, of Monroe, Michigan, whom he wedded in 1850. She was born in Canastota, New York, in 1832, and still survives her husband. Her parents were Jonathan T. and Elizabeth (Morris) Gilbert, the former a native of Connecticut. He came to Michigan with his family during the girlhood of Mrs. Clarke, who remained under the parental roof until the time of her marriage. She had long been a member of the Presbyterian church and her fidelity to her church and friends has won her uniform esteem. As a dutiful wife she was to her husband a source of much help and comfort. Unto the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Clarke were born four children: Eva F., the wife of A. H. Powell; Morris G., a merchant of Coldwater; Ralph E., who is with his brother in business; and Mabel, the wife of W. N. Worcester, and died in 1885, leaving a daughter, Sarah C. The sons became partners of their father in the mercantile enterprise and at his death succeeded to the business, which they have continued to conduct under the old style of E. R. Clarke & Company, being composed of Morris G., Ralph E. and E. R. Clarke, Jr. They are numbered among the prominent and worthy citizens of Coldwater and are gentlemen of the highest integrity, now enjoying a prosperous business career.

Edwin R. Clarke will long be remembered as one of the most prominent and respected residents of Coldwater. While he accomplished much in the business world and ratified his friendships by kindly sympathy and thoughtful consideration for others, his greatest depth of love was reserved for his family.

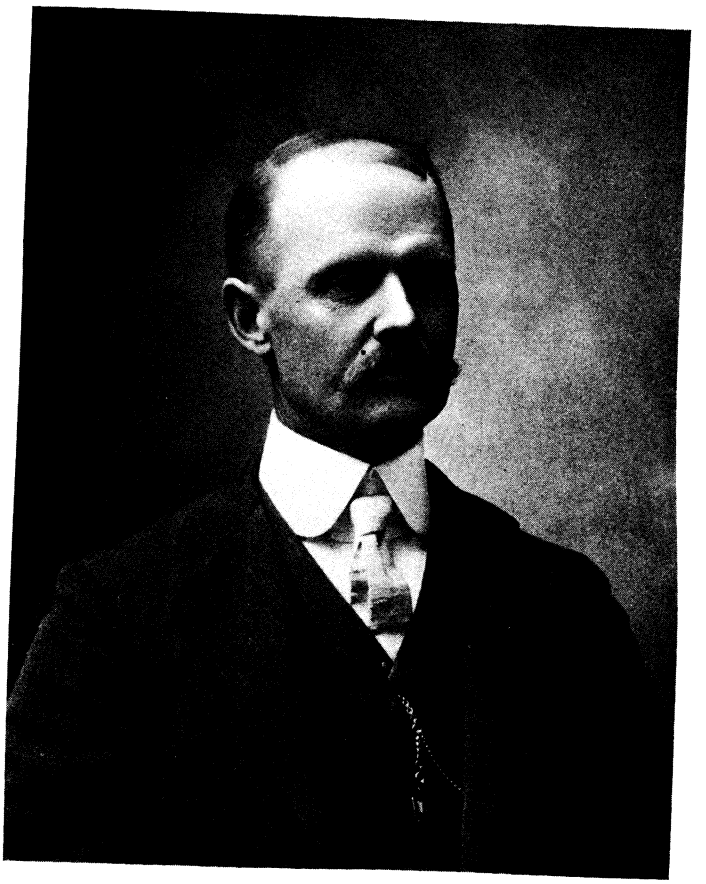
WILLIAM W. SNIDER.

William W. Snider, president of the village of Union City, and active in its commercial circles as a dealer in dry goods, carpets and millinery, has in the course of a successful business career developed and strengthened his latent energies and so conducted his affairs that he has advanced individual success and at the same time has promoted public prosperity. He is a native son of the middle west and a typical citizen of Michigan, energetic, far-sighted and alert. He was born in Albion, June 29, 1857. His father, Peter Snider, was a native of the state of New York, where he remained until his removal to Michigan at an early epoch in the development of this state. He located at Albion, where he engaged in merchandising. He married Harriet A. Ketchum, whose birth occurred in Calhoun county, Michigan, and who now resides in Homer, surviving her husband, who passed away in Homer at the age of eighty-two years. They were the parents of two sons, the younger being Fred, who died in Homer when about forty-one years of age.

William W. Snider spent the days of his childhood and youth in Albion, acquiring his early education there and afterward spending two terms as a student in Hillsdale academy. He entered upon his business career in Homer as proprietor of a general store in 1888, and while there residing he was appointed postmaster under President Harrison and was retained through the administration of President Cleveland, acting in that capacity for five years. He was also township clerk for nine years, and was president of the board for two years. He likewise served as a member of the council for one year, but resigned when appointed to the position of postmaster. He came to Union City in September, 1895, here entering into partnership with M. J. Rowley, now deceased. In 1900 he purchased his partner's interest and has since conducted business alone. He has also been express agent for the American Express Company for eight years and acts in this capacity in connection with the management of his store, which is a well equipped establishment. He carries a large and carefully selected stock of goods, and because of his study of the public needs and desires, his straightforward business methods and his reasonable prices, he has secured a liberal and gratifying patronage.

In community affairs, active and influential, Mr. Snider has had not a little to do with molding the public policy of Union City during the period of his residence here, and in 1904 was elected president of the village board, to which position he was re-elected in the spring of 1905, having rendered capable and satisfactory service during his first term. He has attained the Royal Arch degree in Masonry and has membership relations with the Knights of the Maccabees. While in Homer he became a charter member of that organization and served as finance keeper for nine years. He was also cashier of the Exchange Bank at that place.

Mr. Snider was first married in Homer to Miss Ella C. Sabin, and after her death he wedded Rae Turner, the wedding being celebrated in June, 1888. Progress and patriotism might well be termed the keynote of his character,



M. M. Snider

as in his business life he has made consecutive advancement, seeking out new methods all the time for the enlargement of his activity, while in public office he has been actuated at all times by a genuine interest in the public good and a sincere desire for the welfare of his community.

GEORGE R. SANFORD.

The gentleman named above has led a remarkably active and useful life, has been engaged in pursuits of a widely different character, and he is now passing his declining days upon his farm on section ten, Girard township. Here, in spite of his eighty-one years, he continues his habits of activity, is in the full possession of his physical and mental faculties, and still carries an air of boyish good nature and jollity seldom seen in a man of his years and experience.

Mr. George R. Sanford is a native of the Empire state, he having been born in Marion, Wayne county, New York, March 3, 1824. His father was Stephen Sanford and his mother was Emma Russell, both natives of New York state, and both coming from the best old eastern stock which has done so much in the settlement of the middle west. His father was a veteran of the war of 1812, and he lived to the good old age of eighty-seven years, while the mother was eighty-two years old at the time of her death.

George R. Sanford was their youngest son, and he early manifested those traits of mind and character which were to make him a leading figure in the communities in which he was to make his home. He passed his early life in Wayne county, New York, and here he attained a good common school education, which was supplemented with a course of study at Walworth Academy. He taught school in that vicinity and when scarcely past his majority he purchased a farm which he paid for from his earnings as a teacher and a farmer.

He was married at Walworth, New York, November 8, 1854, to Miss Mary Barnum, daughter of Eli and Clarinda (Thompson) Barnum, who was born in Dutchess county, New York, January 13, 1825. Soon after their marriage they located at Fairport, New York, where Mr. Sanford became the owner of large tracts of land which he platted into farms and town lots. At one time he was considered one of the most extensive and enterprising real estate dealers in the interior of the state of New York, and he was at this time known as one of the leading and most highly esteemed citizens of Fairport, where he was called upon to fill positions of public trust and responsibility. Ever willing to aid his friends in business ventures, and possessing thorough confidence in his business associates, he was led to endorse paper and to back financial enterprises to such an extent that he was brought into financial difficulties, and the greater portion of his property was taken in assuming the liabilities thus incurred. With undaunted energy, however, he decided to go into the west and seek to recoup his fallen fortunes, and in the spring of 1880 he came to Girard, where he operated several farms for a period of three years, afterward returning to New York state, where he remained for two years. He then returned to Michigan and

located in Calhoun county, where he lived upon several farms which he rented and owned until 1898, when he purchased his present productive farm of eighty acres on section ten, Girard. Here Mr. and Mrs. Sanford have a most comfortable home.

The union of Mr. and Mrs. Sanford has been blessed with the birth of five children, one of whom died in infancy. The three still living are Eli B. Sanford, who is on a ranch in Montana; Emma, the wife of F. B. Gleason, a young business man of Batavia, New York; and May C., the wife of C. O. Strong, of Burlington, Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Sanford are members of the Tekonsha Presbyterian church, of which society Mr. Sanford is also an officer. The worthy couple have many warm personal friends in this portion of the state who hold them in the highest regard and esteem on account of their many sterling and lovable traits of character.

CAPTAIN LUCIUS M. WING.

Captain Lucius M. Wing president of the Coldwater National Bank and active in promoting and conducting varied business interests which have contributed to public prosperity as well as to individual success, was born on a farm in Coldwater township, Branch county, Michigan, February 27, 1839. His parents were Barnabas and Lucetta (Titus) Wing, the former a native of Vermont and the latter of New York. The father was reared in the Green Mountain state, and in early manhood he went to the Empire state, where he was married. About 1830 he brought his wife to Branch county, settling in Coldwater township, where he became the owner of a farm which he conducted in connection with the manufacture of brick, having about three miles east of Coldwater the first brick yard of the county. Both Barnabas and Lucetta Wing died in this county, the former passing away in 1868. They had but two children, Lewis and Lucius M. After losing his first wife the father married again, and there was a son and a daughter by the second union. In his political views Barnabas Wing was originally a Whig, and upon the dissolution of that party he gave his support to the Republican party. As a pioneer he took an active and helpful interest in everything pertaining to the development and improvement of the county and his labors along agricultural and industrial lines contributed to the material growth and progress of this section of the state.

Lucius M. Wing was reared upon his father's farm and pursued his education in the district schools of Coldwater. When about twenty-one years of age he began farming on his own account, and also operated the brick yard established by his father, but in 1862 he put aside all business and personal consideration that he might respond to the country's call for aid, the Civil war having been inaugurated. He enlisted as a private of Company C, Nineteenth Michigan Infantry, but was soon promoted to the rank of second lieutenant, later commissioned captain of his company and was placed on staff duty, thus serving during the last year and a half of the war. He remained with his command until the close of hostilities, and was

a patriotic soldier and faithful officer, making for himself a most creditable military record during the three years of his connection with the boys in blue.

Following the close of the war Captain Wing resumed farming, and a year later was elected sheriff of Branch county, at which time he removed to Coldwater. He became a factor in the business life of the city as one of the stockholders in the industry conducted under the name of the American Cigar Company. He retained his connection with that enterprise for thirty years and the business proved very successful, so that he secured a good profit upon his investment. He was also interested in a stock farm in the county and he became president and general manager of the Wolverine Portland Cement Company. Since 1892 he has been a factor in financial circles, having in that year become connected with the Coldwater National Bank, of which he was chosen president in 1896. He has since been at the head of the institution and has inaugurated a safe conservative policy that makes this one of the leading and reliable concerns of the state.

In 1868 Captain Wing was united in marriage to Miss Adeline M. Knapp and they have two sons—Philip L. and Sigmund L. The parents affiliate with the Episcopal church, and Captain Wing is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Loyal Legion, thus maintaining social relationship with those with whom he fought upon the battlefields of the south. He has always given his political support to the Republican party, and it was upon that ticket that he was chosen sheriff of the county, to which position he was re-elected at the close of his first term. He was also mayor of Coldwater for one year and he exercised his official prerogatives in behalf of needed reform and improvement, giving to the public a very satisfactory administration. His public service as an official, his business career and his private life are characterized by unfaltering devotion to duty and by the faithful discharge of every obligation that devolves upon him.

JACOB W. MANN.

A life-long resident of Girard and Branch county is the gentleman named above. As his name indicates, Mr. Mann is a descendant of one of the oldest families of this section, his ancestors having done much in the development and upbuilding of this prosperous region.

His father was Peter I. Mann, who was born in Schoharie, Schoharie county, New York, February 27, 1815, where he passed his early years. Peter I. Mann was the son of Jacob W. Mann—this name having been handed down to the grandson, who is the subject of this sketch—and Polly Shannon Mann, also a native of Schoharie county, New York, where she was born March 1, 1798. Jacob and Polly Shannon Mann were married and the parents of four children when they came to Michigan in 1836 and settled in the township of Girard, where the remainder of their lives was passed. Mr. Mann died September 19, 1846, while his wife lived to a good old age, passing away October 5, 1886.

Mr. Peter I. Mann grew up with the then new township of Girard, and

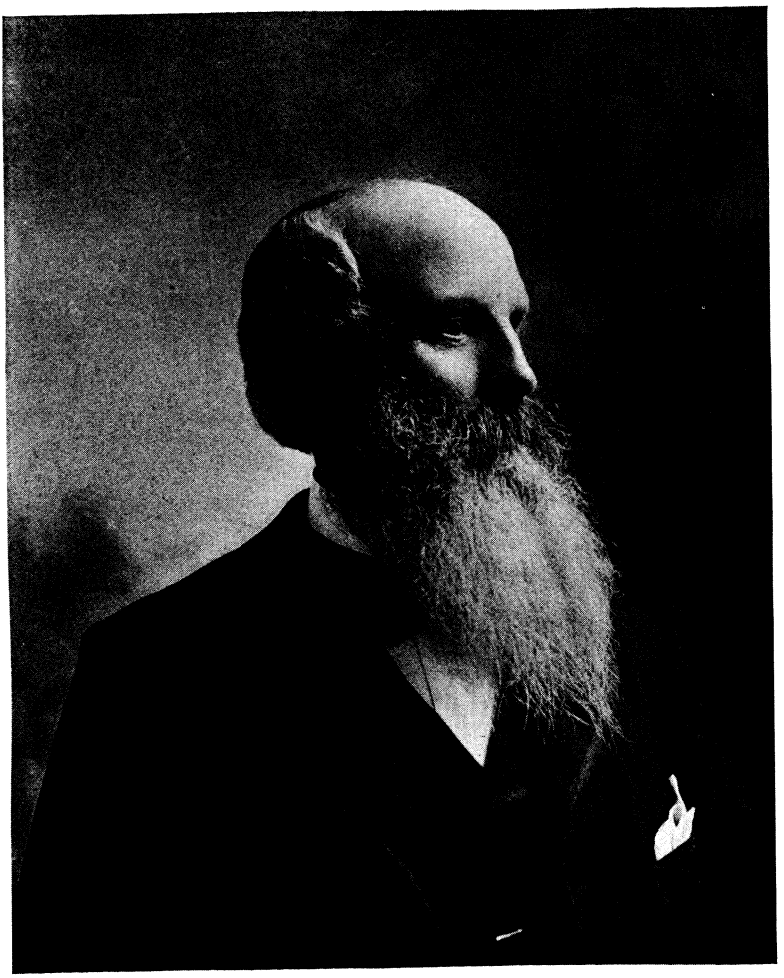
became one of its wealthiest and most influential citizens. He was married January 13, 1842, to Lavina, daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Putnam) Grove, and eight children were born to them. Three of these children died in infancy; Nina died twenty-five years ago at the age of sixteen years; Mark H. Mann is a prosperous Girard farmer; Belinda Mann Hurst is a resident of the city of Coldwater; Mary Mann Williams lives at Girard Center; while another son, Jacob W. Mann, is the subject of this sketch. Mr. and Mrs. Peter I. Mann lived to a good old age, and their deaths were deeply deplored, Mr. Mann dying January 8, 1897, Mrs. Mann's death preceding this, October 7, 1890.

Mr. Jacob W. Mann, our subject, was born in Girard, January 8, 1847, and his entire life has been passed here. He has always been engaged in farming, and is counted as one of the solid and substantial citizens of this community. He was married at Jackson, Michigan, March 25, 1870, to Miss Emma Prentiss, who was born in the township of Coldwater, June 8, 1845. She was the daughter of Curtiss Prentiss, a native of Penfield, New York, where he was born April 13, 1813, her mother being Clarinda Fox, also a native of New York state, where she was born about 1815. The Prentiss and Fox families were of good old Empire state stock, where they were among the leading people. Curtiss Prentiss was the only member of his family to come to Michigan, and when he arrived here in 1836 Girard and Branch county were not the blooming and fertile sections now seen here. Instead there were unbroken forests and no means of transportation aside from wagon roads and bridle and foot paths. For many years he was engaged in the transportation of goods, suupplies, etc., through this portion of the state, making frequent trips as far as Detroit for supplies for the little colony of people located here.

His marriage to Clarinda Fox was blessed with the birth of five children, two of whom died in infancy, the three who grew to manhood and womanhood being: Mrs. Jacob W. Mann, of Girard; Edson D. Prentiss, of Mason county, Michigan; and Charles E. Prentiss, who died in Allegan county, Michigan, April 18, 1902. The mother died in Union township January 28, 1853. Mr. Prentiss was married to Emma Andrews, of Branch county. To them were born six children, three of whom are now living, as follows: Mrs. Charles Hollenbeck, of Tekonsha, Michigan; George D. Prentiss, of Burr Oak, Michigan; and Mrs. Hattie Sanford, of Girard. One daughter, Clara Prentiss, died in November of 1901. Curtiss Prentiss was a resident of this county until 1884, when he removed to Burr Oak, St. Joseph county, Michigan, where he died January 16, 1896, and where Mrs. Prentiss is still living.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob W. Mann are the parents of one daughter, Edna, who was married October 12, 1892, to Artemas A. Perry. They have one daughter, Bernice, who was born October 30, 1895, and one son, Carleton, who was born July 10, 1898. The family reside in a most comfortable farm home in Girard.

Soon after the marriage of Jacob W. and Emma Prentiss Mann they



W. A. Lamptkins



Irene C. Tompkins

made their home on a farm in the northern part of the township of Girard, where they lived for ten years. In 1882 they removed to their present home on section sixteen, Girard. The place consists of one hundred and twenty acres of fine farming land adjoining the village of Girard, with suitable buildings and a modern and attractive house and grounds. Mr. Mann is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, being a member of Tyre lodge, Coldwater, while Mrs. Mann is a member of the Girard Methodist Episcopal church. Both stand high in the regard and esteem of the residents of this section, where their entire lives have been passed. The names of Mann, Prentiss and Fox have for many years been intimately associated with the history of Girard township, and their worthy descendants feel justly proud of the ancestors and relatives who have passed to their well-earned rewards.

WILLIAM A. TOMPKINS.

William A. Tompkins, deceased, was for many years a respected and representative farmer of Girard township. The student of history cannot carry his investigation far into the annals of Branch county without learning of the close and beneficial connection of the Tompkins family with this part of the state, four generations of the name being residents of Girard township, so that from the period of primitive development down to the present they have contributed to the substantial progress and improvement of this locality.

William A. Tompkins was born in this township July 6, 1836, and was among the first white native children here. His father, James B. Tompkins, long considered the leading citizen of Girard township, was born in Schoharie county, New York, June 28, 1804, and having arrived at years of maturity was married to Miss Eliza Ames, who was born in the town of Colchester, Chittenden county, Vermont, March 3, 1813. They were among the first settlers of Girard township, Branch county, casting in their lot with its pioneer settlers and sharing in the hardships and privations which constitute a chapter in the life history of all who locate on the frontier. The father was a surveyor and made all of the first surveys in this township and county, thus assisting materially in the development and progress of the community. He also furthered many interests for the public good, and was a man whose upright life and honorable character won him the respect and admiration of all with whom he came in contact. He died August 1, 1879, and his wife, long surviving him, passed away on the 6th of December, 1902, at the advanced age of ninety years.

William A. Tompkins was reared on the old family homestead amid the scenes and environments of pioneer life, and early became familiar with the labors that constitute the life of the agriculturist. He was indebted to the public school system for the educational privileges he enjoyed, and he spent nearly his entire life in his native township, although he lived at Elkhart, Indiana, for a few years, at Clarendon, Calhoun county, Michigan, for two years and at Coldwater for one year. The greater part of his business career was devoted to agricultural pursuits, and at the time of his death he

was one of the largest landowners in Girard township, his holdings embracing nearly four hundred acres of fertile land, constituting a very valuable and attractive farm. It was splendidly equipped with modern improvements and conveniences and a commodious home, pleasantly located, indicated great care and good taste.

Mr. Tompkins was married twice. On the 1st of December, 1859, he wedded Sabra Matthews, by whom he had one son, Frank, who is now living in Oberon, North Dakota. He is engaged in farming and is also district veterinarian for the state of three counties. On the 27th of December, 1874, Mr. Tompkins was again married, his second union being with Miss Irene C. Millard, who survives him and lives upon the home farm on section 11, Girard township.

Throughout his business career Mr. Tompkins was found reliable and honorable, and his record was in keeping with his father's history, for he, too, was classed with the prominent and representative citizens of his community, and in matters of public progress was deeply interested to the extent of giving hearty support to all measures which he believed would prove of general good. At the time of his death the following lines appeared in one of the local papers:

"William A. Tompkins died quite suddenly at his home in Girard, Thursday, July 13, 1905. He was born in Girard township, July 6, 1835, and was the second son of Mr. and Mrs. James Tompkins, who settled in Girard township in 1831, and of a family of nine children only three are now living—Mrs. Adeline Granger, Theron and Frank Tompkins, all residents of Girard township.

"With the exception of a short residence in Elkhart, Coldwater and Clarendon, Mr. Tompkins has always been a resident of Girard township and was classed as one of its wealthy farmers. What changes he has seen come to pass in that now beautiful township. When a child it was almost a wilderness, with an occasional log cabin dotted here and there, with a larger population of Indians than white people, and now beautiful farms are seen everywhere.

"Mr. Tompkins was a highly respected, substantial citizen and will be missed much in the community. He will be especially missed in the Baptist church, as he was a friend and liberal helper. Rev. F. R. Randall preached the funeral sermon at the Baptist church yesterday at three p. m., and the remains were laid at rest in the Girard cemetery."

WILLIAM E. SHAW.

William E. Shaw, residing on section twenty-four, Batavia township, was born in Ovid township, Branch county, November 27, 1846, and is the youngest of a family of ten children, seven daughters and three sons, whose parents were Christopher B. and Charlotte (Bagley) Shaw, both of whom were natives of England. Having crossed the Atlantic to America, the father took up his abode in Ohio, and from that state came to Branch county, Michigan, in 1845. He died November 26, 1849, having been for but a

brief period a resident of this part of the state. His widow, however, long survived him, and her death occurred in Coldwater in 1893, when she was in her eighty-eighth year. Of their ten children two died in Ohio, while eight reached adult age.

William E. Shaw was partly reared in Coldwater, where his parents located when he was but a year old. He there remained until nine years of age, when his mother took up her abode on a farm in Batavia township. His education was acquired in the schools of Coldwater, in Litchfield, and in Jonesville, Michigan, spending two terms at the last named place. Having put aside his text books he began learning the miller's trade at the age of sixteen years, and he followed that pursuit for ten years, spending five years of the time in Litchfield. He was also at Constantine, at Jackson and Hillsdale, Michigan, and for four years operated the Hodunk mill. He then began farming in Coldwater township and remained there for eleven years, carrying on general agricultural pursuits on the corporate line. He afterward spent one year in Edgar, Clay county, Nebraska, where he bought a farm, but when a year had passed he sold that property and returned to Coldwater. Not long afterward he purchased a farm in Matteson township, where he lived for three years. He had charge of the state school for one year and he was foreman of the Dewey Stave Company at Toledo, Ohio, for one year, working under L. P. Aldin, who was superintendent at that time. He then returned to Matteson township and bought another farm, remaining on the same for twelve years. On the expiration of that period he traded that property for a farm in Bronson township and then traded for a farm in Hillsdale county and took up his abode in Litchfield township. There he lived for eight years, when in 1902 he sold the property and returned to Coldwater, purchasing a tract of ten acres on Grand street. A year later he traded this for what was known as the James Peterson farm, where he now resides, having two hundred and thirty-seven acres of land, which is very productive, responding readily to his cultivation. There is also a modern house upon the place, and the farm is well improved in all of its equipments, good machinery being utilized in the care and cultivation of the fields. He is now successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising and is justly regarded as an enterprising, progressive citizen, who is practical in his business methods and owes his success to his close application, untiring diligence and keen business discrimination. He today owns one hundred and fifty head of sheep, seventy-five head of hogs, ten head of cattle and five head of horses, and he has a well equipped farm that in its attractive appearance shows that he is in touch with the most advanced methods of farming.

In 1868 Mr. Shaw was united in marriage to Miss Ada E. Carr, a daughter of A. C. and Mary (Vance) Carr, who was born in Bronson, Branch county, Michigan, and there remained until seventeen years of age. Both Mr. and Mrs. Shaw have a wide circle of warm friends in this part of the state, and the cordial and generous hospitality of their own home is greatly enjoyed by their many visitors. Mr. Shaw keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day and is a stanch advocate of Republican principles. While living in Matteson township he served as drain commissioner

and at one time he was deputy sheriff of the county. He may well be termed a self-made man and deserves all the praise that that term applies. He depended upon his own labors for his education, for he worked for his board while attending school. When fourteen years of age he started out upon an independent business career and has since depended entirely upon his own resources. Nothing was given him and all that he has made has come as the result of his persistency of purpose. Today he is the owner of the best residence in the township, and his farm is also equal to any found in this part of the county. His life should inspire and encourage others who are forced to start out as he did, amid unfavorable circumstances, for his record proves that prosperity will come if persistently, earnestly and honestly sought.

W. B. CHIESMAN.

W. B. Chiesman, filling the position of postmaster in Sherwood, where he is also conducting a shoe business, was born in Madison, Ohio, January 10, 1858, his parents being Benjamin F. and Phoebe P. (Smith) Chiesman. The father, a native of England, came to America when a young man about twenty-four years of age. He was a jeweler and located in Madison, Ohio, whence he afterward removed to Chardon, that state, but he lived to be only thirty-three years of age. His wife, a native of Ripon, England, died in her sixty-sixth year.

W. B. Chiesman is the younger of their two sons. He was reared in Ashtabula county, Ohio, pursued his education in the district schools and in the Normal Institute at Orwell, Ohio. About 1881 he engaged in merchandising on his own account at Newville, DeKalb county, Indiana, where he carried on his store until 1890, when he sold out there and came to Sherwood. Here he established a drug and book store, which he conducted for about six years, when he disposed of that enterprise and turned his attention to the shoe trade, which still claims his time and energies, having a liberal patronage which is indicative of his honorable methods and the confidence which the public have in his business dealings.

Mr. Chiesman has also figured somewhat prominently in local affairs. He was trustee of his township in DeKalb county, Indiana, for five years and was chairman of the Republican county central committee for four years. He has held office in Sherwood, having been president of the village for three years, treasurer for five years and township clerk for two years, while in 1897 he was appointed by President McKinley to the office of postmaster, which position he yet fills by reappointment of President Roosevelt, now serving his third term. No public trust in him has ever been betrayed in the slightest degree as he performs his public service with the same care and fidelity which he manifests in the supervision of his private business interests.

Mr. Chiesman was married in 1880 to Miss Belle A. Leggett, a daughter of James Leggett, of Montville, Ohio. They have one son, Guy, who is now in his second year at Olivet College. Mr. Chiesman is a member of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to Sherwood Lodge, No. 421, and he

also has membership relations with the Knights of the Maccabees of Sherwood and with the Unitarian church. His life in both its public and private relations has been marked by consecutive advancement and his efforts have been directed along well defined lines of labor, a definite plan of action resulting in the acquirement of a competence. His official service marks him as a public-spirited and patriotic citizen and the welfare of the community as well as national progress are matters dear to his heart.

DANIEL LARZELERE.

Daniel Larzelere, who is one of the oldest grain dealers in the state of Michigan, now living a retired life in Quincy, has passed the eighty-fourth milestone on life's journey, his birth having occurred in Seneca Falls, New York, in 1821. In the paternal line he is of French lineage and in the maternal line of Dutch descent. His father, William Larzelere, was a native of the Empire state and traced his ancestry back to one of three brothers who came to America in an early day, fleeing from their own country and settling on Staten Island. William Larzelere was connected with the boat business and was also active in speculation. In 1836 he came to Michigan, settling one mile west of Kenton, in Lenawee county. He was in good financial circumstances, prosperous in most of his business investments. He became prominent in community affairs and was called to various public offices, serving as collector and justice of the peace, filling the last named position for a number of years in New York. His political allegiance was given to the Whig party until its dissolution, when he joined the ranks of the new Republican party. In his religious faith he was a Congregationalist. He married Mahala Burrows, a native of Seneca Falls, New York, who died in 1885, at the age of eighty-two years. They were the parents of seven sons and one daughter.

Daniel Larzelere, the only surviving member of the family, was but twelve years of age when he began earning his own living, being employed in a store. When a young man of twenty years he embarked in business for himself as a woolen manufacturer in Ypsilanti, and he afterward spent six years as a merchant and miller at Grass Lake. In 1846 he began buying grain, having built a mill, and he has the reputation of being the oldest grain dealer in the state of Michigan. Later he removed to Adrian and accepted the position of chief clerk in the office of the superintendent of the Lake Shore Railroad Company, being at that point for four years. His next home was at Dowagiac, Michigan, where he carried on merchandising, also dealt in grain and wool and built a business block which he afterward sold for ten thousand dollars. He remained at Dowagiac for seventeen years, prospering in his undertakings there, and when he disposed of his business interests he took in exchange for his store four hundred and sixty-four acres of land and the stock upon the farm at Tekonsha, where he carried on general agricultural pursuits for six years. He had previously owned and operated a number of farms, so that the work of the agriculturist was not unfamiliar to him. On leaving the farm he traded his property there for

realty in Quincy. This was in the year 1877, and in the following year he engaged in merchandising, since which time he has been a representative of the grain trade at this point and yet makes extensive shipments. He has always led a busy life, and while at Dowagiac his business interests amounted to three hundred thousand dollars annually. While in business in that city he also had six stations where he bought grain—Dowagiac, Decatur, Lawton, Buchanan, Niles and Clayton. He was a man amongst the farmers who always stood by his word and was ever popular, one who stood four square with the world as an honest business man.

Mr. Larzelere has been married twice. In 1845 he wedded Delia Brewer, of Ypsilanti, and they became the parents of one son, Frank A., who is now living in Quincy. In 1857 Mr. Larzelere was married to Clymena Larzelere, of Adrian, Michigan, and they have become the parents of three daughters: Leora E., the wife of Rev. K. N. Conrad, a minister of the Baptist church, at Newport, New York; Ina M., the wife of William Mensell, a plumber at Los Gatos, California; and Clymena, who died in infancy. They also have an adopted son, Claude S., who is now professor in the Central Normal School at Mount Pleasant, Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Larzelere are members of the Presbyterian church at Quincy, in which he is serving as treasurer, and in the work of which they take an active and helpful interest. He assisted in organizing the Odd Fellows lodge at Ypsilanti, and to some extent has attended the meetings in Quincy. Formerly he was a Republican, but is now a strong Prohibitionist and takes high ground on the subject of temperance. He has often been solicited to accept nomination for office, but has invariably declined, preferring to concentrate his time, energies and attention upon his business affairs. Few men of his years are yet so active in business as is Mr. Larzelere, and such a life record should put to shame many a man of much younger years, who, growing weary of the struggles of a business career, would relegate to others the burdens that he should bear. Old age does not necessarily suggest idleness nor want of occupation. There is an old age that grows stronger and better as the years pass, both mentally and spiritually, and gives of its rich stores an experience. Such has been the record of Mr. Larzelere, who is to-day one of the most honored as well as most venerable citizens of Quincy.

ARTHUR BURROWS.

Arthur Burrows has for forty-three years been a resident of Coldwater, and while he has never sought to figure in public life and thus gain wide prominence, he has nevertheless been a factor in community interests, supporting all measures for the benefit and upbuilding of the city and co-operating in many movements which have been effective in advancing the welfare of the county.

Mr. Burrows is a native of England, his birth having occurred in Bury St. Edmonds, county Suffolk, December 29, 1827. His parents, William and Sarah (Snare) Burrows, were also natives of the same locality, and

when they came to America in the year 1837 they settled in Rochester, New York, where their remaining days were passed, their remains being interred in Mount Hope cemetery. They were the parents of eight children, seven sons and a daughter, of whom one died in infancy, while one remained in England, the other five sons and daughter coming to America with their parents.

Arthur Burrows, the seventh in order of birth in the family, was only nine years of age when he crossed the Atlantic, and in Rochester, New York, he was reared and educated, remaining there until early manhood, when he removed to Brockport, New York, about seventeen miles west of the former city. He was there married December 29, 1850, to Eliza J. Grenell, who was born in Greenfield, Saratoga county, New York, October 19, 1827, a daughter of Benjamin and Betsy Grenell, who removed to Brockport, where their daughter spent her girlhood days and acquired her education. The young couple began their domestic life in that place, where they remained until 1862, when they came to Coldwater, Michigan, and since that time Mr. Burrows, as a public-spirited and progressive citizen, has upheld the moral and political status of the community and contributed to its material progress and improvement. He entered business life here as an employe of the firm of Blodget & Company, dealers in furniture and undertaker's supplies, with whom he remained for about fifteen years, when, his economy and industry bringing to him some capital, he embarked in mercantile life on his own account. It was in 1885 that he opened his furniture and undertaking establishment, as a partner of A. R. Brown, under the firm name of Brown & Burrows. Later the senior member sold his interest to J. M. Crocker, with whom Mr. Burrows was afterward engaged in the undertaking business for about two years. In the winter of 1899 the business relations between them were discontinued and Mr. Burrows opened an undertaking parlor in connection with Charles H. Harris, with whom he continued until April 4, 1902, when he retired from active business life to enjoy the competence which his years of earnest toil, capable management and keen discrimination in business affairs had brought to him.

Of strongly domestic tastes and interested in the home life, Mr. Burrows has ever done what he could to promote the welfare and happiness of his wife and children. Only two, however, of the eight children born to him and his wife are now living: Lelia, the wife of J. N. Smith, a rural mail carrier; and Mattie E., the wife of William Clark, of Coldwater. Mr. Burrows also has three grandchildren, Fred Burrows, May Sawin and Fred Smith. The members of the family who have passed away are as follows: William A., born May 17, 1854, in Brockport, New York, died in Iroquois, Illinois, December 20, 1881; Carrie Jane, born August 6, 1857, in Brockport, New York, died in Coldwater, May 8, 1897; Ida Elizabeth, born in Brockport, February 17, 1859, died May 17, 1884; Harry C., born March 28, 1861, in Brockport, died in Coldwater May 7, 1862; Fred, born January 2, 1864, in this city, died January 7, 1864; Kate S., born in Brockport, New York, March 28, 1861, died August 24, 1885.

Aside from the fact that Mr. Burrows was so long an active repre-

sentative of business interests, he was also well known in Coldwater because of his participation in public affairs. His position in regard to political questons has ever been an unequivocal one, as he has given a stanch and unswerving support to Republican principles. He has labored earnestly to promote the growth and insure the success of his party, and has been called to render various public services of a responsible character. He has been a member of the United States grand jury and the Branch county petit jury. He was county coroner for six years, supervisor from the first ward for six years and alderman from the first ward for two years. No public trust has ever been betrayed by him in the slightest degree and his public duties have been performed in the same capable and straightforward manner that ever characterized his business dealings. A permeating influence and motive power in his life has been his relationship with the Baptist church, of which he has been a member for sixty years. He has filled various offices in the church, and for a number of years was superintendent of the Sunday-school and he has ever given generously of his means to the support of Christian and charitable work. During a residence of forty-three years in Coldwater he has so lived as to make for himself an enviable reputation in commercial, political and church circles. With a just conception of the duties and obligations that devolve upon man, and his possibilities for accomplishment in character building as well as in the material things of life, he has wrought along lines of great good, and is therefore to-day one of the most thoroughly respected and esteemed citizens of Branch county.

DANA P. WHITE.

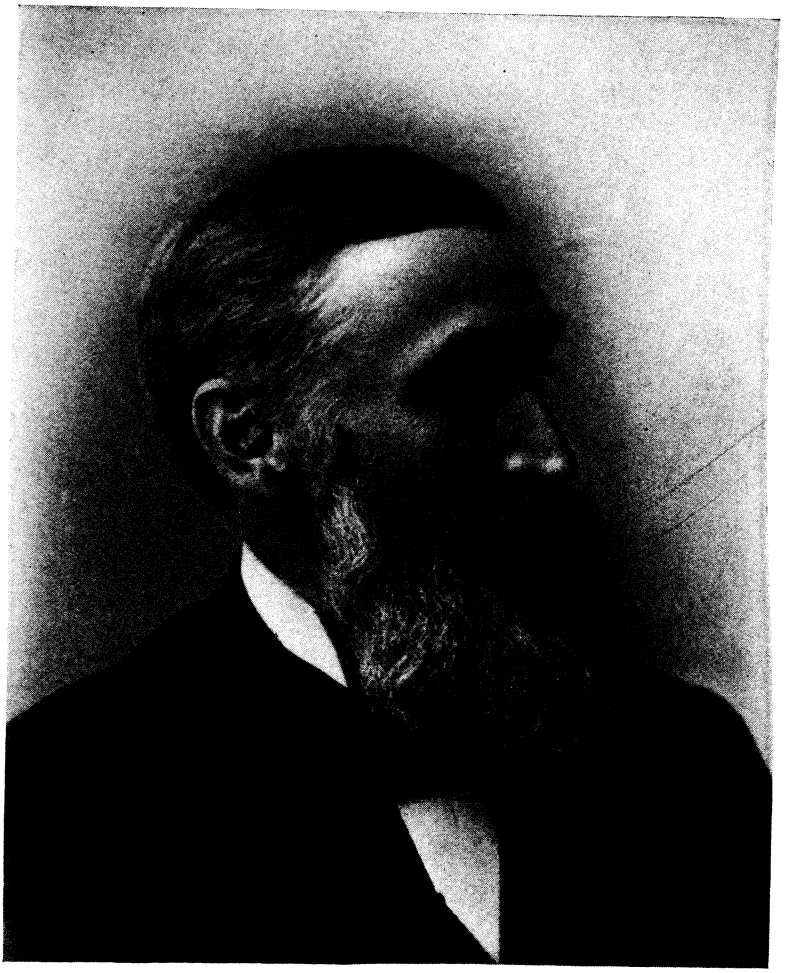
Dana P. White, who is engaged in the milling business in Union City, is a native of the Green Mountain state, his birth having occurred in Orange county, Vermont, November 1, 1826. His father, Josiah White, also born in that state, was a millwright by occupation and died in his native county when about sixty years of age. The ancestry of the family, however, can be traced somewhat farther back, the family having been established in this country in colonial days. The following is a quotation from Theodore Tilton:

"There was a Mrs. White on board the Mayflower, the mother of the first born child born to the New England pilgrims on this continent. It was a good omen that this historic babe was brought into the world on board the Mayflower, between the time of casting the anchor and the landing of the passengers. A kind of amphibious prophecy that the new born nation was to have a birthright inheritance over sea and land.

"THEODORE TILTON."

"New York, December 22, 1865."

The grandfather, Paul White, lived to the extreme old age of ninety-six years, while his wife Polly was ninety-four years of age at the time of her death, and they had traveled life's journey together for more than seventy years. Josiah White was united in marriage to Miss Zerviah Townsend, also a native of Vermont, who died when about fifty years of age, while her father



D. P. White

passed away at the age of sixty years. Unto Mr. and Mrs. White were born nine children, five sons and four daughters, all of whom reached adult age.

Dana P. White, the seventh member of this family, and the only one now living, spent his boyhood days in the state of his nativity until fourteen years of age and began his education there in a log schoolhouse. When still but a lad he became familiar with the milling business, and in his fifteenth year he started out to make his own way in the world. He then learned the tailor's trade in Windsor, Vermont, serving a regular apprenticeship, and later he accepted a clerkship in a clothing store at Cambridgeport, Massachusetts, where he remained for a year. On the expiration of that period he entered upon an active business career as a clothing merchant of Windsor, Vermont, but after a year he sold his store there and went to Charleston, New Hampshire, where he conducted a similar enterprise for two years. He then again disposed of his stock of goods and removed to the middle west, settling in Davenport, Iowa, where he engaged in the bag and paper business, manufacturing paper and flour sacks for about six years. He next located in St. Louis, Missouri, where he engaged in the manufacture of vinegar in partnership with a brother, continuing there for about a year. This was during the period of the Civil war. From St. Louis he went to Keokuk, Iowa, where he again engaged in the manufacture of flour sacks for thirty-six years, conducting a profitable business. When the three decades had passed he sold his interest to his brother and removed to Brooklyn, New York, where he lived retired for about a year and a half. Settling in Ann Arbor, Michigan, he spent three years in that city, having no active business interests, but enjoying a well earned rest.

Mr. White first came to Union City in 1852, remaining for three years at that time, and it was from this place that he removed to Bridgeport, Connecticut. There he conducted a clothing and furnishing goods business, after which he went to Davenport, Iowa, as mentioned above. Again he came to Union City on leaving Ann Arbor in 1890, and after a time he purchased a book store, which he conducted for five years. He also had charge of the express and telephone business, and upon selling his store he purchased the Union City mill, which he is now conducting, manufacturing an excellent grade of flour, which finds a ready sale on the market.

In 1849 Mr. White was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Gleason, and unto them were born two children, Mary Addie and Annie Lizzie, twins. The latter is now the wife of Dr. Solon B. Parsons, of Arkansas City, Arkansas, and they have six children, three sons and three daughters, Dana, Helen, Mary, Margaret, John and Richard. Mary A. is the wife of Professor E. R. Miller of Auburn, Alabama, now in Cuba in the employ of the Cuban government. The mother died June 1, 1881, and on the 17th of May, 1887, Mr. White wedded Susie Easton.

Mr. White is an inflexible advocate of the Republican party, and voted for Fremont, Lincoln and its successive presidential candidates. Prior to its organization he was a Democrat and cast his ballot for James K. Polk. He has been a member of the Masonic fraternity between forty and fifty years, and in his life has exemplified the beneficent spirit of the craft. Long a de-

voted member of the Congregational church, he is serving as one of its deacons and takes an active and helpful part in its work. His life is a proof of the adage, "through struggles to success," for he started out in life empty-handed and has gradually worked his way upward, making all that he has enjoyed and now possesses through his industry. Although he has passed the seventy-eighth milestone of life's journey he is still an active factor in business life and such a career should put to shame many a man of younger years who, growing weary of the close application and struggles of a business career, would put upon others the burdens that he should bear. In spirit and interest Mr. White seems yet in his prime and he commands the respect of young and old, rich and poor.

WILLIS A. MILLER.

Willis A. Miller, who is farming on section one, Batavia township, is numbered among Michigan's native sons, his birth having occurred in Pontiac, Oakland county, on the 7th of December, 1852. His father, George Miller, was a native of Highland county, Ohio, born February 18, 1819, and he came to Branch county, Michigan, about 1831, but went to Iowa in 1853, returning, however, to Michigan in 1859. For forty years thereafter he remained a resident of this part of the state, and his death occurred in Coldwater in 1899, when he had attained the venerable age of eighty years. He married Miss Ruth Norton, who was born in Jefferson county, New York, October 16, 1824. Her last days were spent in the home of her son, Willis Miller, where she passed away on the 10th of November, 1901.

Mr. Miller was an adopted son of these worthy people, becoming a member of their family when only five weeks old, and he was never made to feel that they were not his real parents, but received from them the loving care and attention which are to be expected from an own father and mother. He was a youth of seven years at the time of their removal to Branch county and here he pursued his education in the district schools of Gilead township. He remained at home up to the time of his marriage, March 28, 1888, when Miss Anna Luh became his wife. She was born in Germany and was a little maiden of four summers when brought by her parents to Branch county, Michigan, receiving her education in the common schools. She is a daughter of Carl and Catherine (Gruner) Luh and was reared in Union township, this county. At the time of their marriage the young couple located on the farm which is now their home, and he has since given his attention to the tilling of the soil and the improvement of his property, having one hundred acres of land, constituting an excellent farm. In fact he is classed with the successful agriculturists of the county, having made most of the improvements upon his place, a fact which indicates his progressive spirit and careful supervision. The farm is neat and thrifty, and in all of his work he is practical, his labors being attended with the success which always comes as the reward of persistent purpose and unfaltering diligence. He has been a resident of Branch county for forty-six years and has taken an active interest in all public affairs, his political allegiance being given to

the Republican party, for he believes that it contains the best elements of good government. Mrs. Miller is a member of the Presbyterian church, and also a member of Centennial Bay View Reading Circle, being chairman of the division. In 1904 Mr. and Mrs. Miller made a two thousand five hundred mile trip through the states of Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Indiana, Missouri and Kansas in their automobile, the "Olds Runabout," four and a half H. P. Their trip consumed three and a half months and was for self-enjoyment. Mrs. Miller's comfortable, cosy home is an indication that she is one of the careful housewives.

JOSEPH PHINEAS FARRAND.

Joseph Phineas Farrand, a veteran of the Civil war and a practical and enterprising farmer of Branch county, was born May 10, 1833, in Elmira, New York. His parents were Charles C. and Nancy (Christian) Farrand. The father was a native of New Jersey and is descended from ancestors who came to America while this country was still numbered among the colonial possessions of Great Britain. Charles C. Farrand and his brother Harvey removed from New Jersey to New York, where they engaged in the operation of a sawmill for seven or eight years, and the year 1836 witnessed his arrival in Bronson township, Branch county, Michigan. He found here a pioneer district with few settlements and little improvement; but he cast in his lot with the frontiersmen who were subduing the wilderness, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of land on section thirty-two, Bronson township. A log house had been begun on the place and he finished that pioneer dwelling, taking up his abode there in 1837. As he prospered in his farming pursuits he added one hundred and sixty acres on section thirty-two, a tract of forty acres on section thirty-three, forty acres on section twenty-nine and eighty acres on section thirty-two, giving him an aggregate of three hundred and twenty acres. He carried on general farming and developed his property into a productive tract of land, from which he annually garnered rich crops. In the early days he served as road commissioner and laid out many of the roads in the southwest part of the township. He was prominent and helpful in public affairs and his worth was widely acknowledged, so that deep regret was felt at the loss of this honored pioneer settler when he was called to his final rest. In his family were five children: Ebenezer, who died in 1899; Joseph P., of this review; Marie, who died in 1900; Willis, who is living in Sherwood, Branch county; and Catherine Eliza, who died in Kansas in 1893.

Joseph P. Farrand, reared upon the old home farm under the parental roof, early became familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the stock. In the winter months he attended the district schools, wherein he mastered the common branches of English learning, and he continued to aid in the operation of the home farm until 1859. He was married October 11, 1857, to Miss Olivia C. Smith, a daughter of Thomas Smith, and he continued to carry on general agricultural pursuits on the old farm homestead until 1861, when in response to his country's need he

offered his services to the Union for three years and became a member of Company D, Eleventh Michigan Infantry. The regiment was attached to the Army of the Cumberland, and he went south to join the command. He was then sent to Detroit to draw back-pay and was ordered to join his regiment, which was then with Sherman on the march to the sea, but an officer in command, recognizing his clerical ability, prevented him from doing active work in the fields and he put him on detached duty. While on his way to join his regiment, they got as far as the High Truss Bridge on Greene river, Kentucky, on the Nashville Railroad, and here his detachment was held to guard this bridge from the rebels. They were attacked Sunday morning about four o'clock and the action continued till ten o'clock, but were under fire three days. They were surrounded by General Bragg's army of sixty thousand men, but Mr. Farrand was paroled on the field. He was discharged in 1865, but continued to serve two and a half years, or until the records were sent from Detroit to Washington, D. C. While he was on detached service in the south Mrs. Farrand acted as volunteer nurse in the hospital for a year. Mr. Farrand's early progenitors were soldiers in the Revolutionary war.

About 1868 Mr. Farrand engaged in the conduct of a meat market in Detroit, and on selling his business there he removed to Toledo, Ohio, becoming fireman on the Lake Shore Railroad, his run being between Toledo and Elkhart. He afterward went to Kansas and for six months was employed as fireman on the Missouri Pacific Railroad. Later he was made an engineer and continued in the employ of the railroad company for eight years. On the expiration of that period he came to Michigan on a visit and accepted a position with the Lake Shore Railroad as engineer, continuing in that service for four years. About 1880 he became proprietor of a hotel at Clinger Lake and was also engineer on the boat, remaining at that point for four years. In 1884 he went to Elkhart, Indiana, where for four years he conducted a restaurant, and in 1889 he rented the Williams farm, upon which he lived for three years. He next rented a farm at Colon for two years, and in 1893 began the operation of the farm which his wife inherited, of one hundred and twenty acres on section thirty-three, Bronson township.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Farrand have been born two children: Burt, who died in infancy; and Willis Smith. The latter, born in 1869, lives at Bronson, Michigan, where he is foreman of the American Truss and Post Company. He married Miss Bell Poiser, and has a family of three children: Burt Elliott, Harry Elmer and Inez May. He is a natural machinist, and he was only fifteen when he made a complete engine.

In his political views Mr. Farrand is a Republican, having always supported the party since age gave him the right of franchise. He belongs to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and holds membership in Haskett Post No. 85, G. A. R., at Elkhart. In all matters of citizenship he is interested and supports all movements for the general welfare with the same loyalty that he displayed when on southern battlefields when he espoused the Union cause.

HENRY C. WHITLEY.

Henry C. Whitley, who is engaged in loaning money on farming lands and makes his home in Coldwater, was born in Rochester, New York, January 7, 1839. His father, John H. Whitley, was born in 1814 and died in 1860. He came to Rochester, New York, in 1835, when a young man of twenty-one years, where he engaged in the boot and shoe business. There his death occurred when he was in his forty-seventh year. His wife bore the maiden name of Eliza Gosnell and was born in 1812, while her death occurred April 18, 1881. She went to Rochester, New York, when about twenty-five years of age. In their family were eleven children, ten sons and a daughter, the latter being the youngest of the family.

Henry C. Whitley, the second son, was reared in the place of his nativity to the age of twenty-three years and was educated in the public schools of Rochester. He entered upon his business career as a bookkeeper, which profession he followed for seven years in the east. On the 31st of December, 1862, he arrived in Coldwater, where he accepted the position of bookkeeper and salesman for the firm of Dickinson and Webb, general merchants. He remained with this house as an employe until 1869, when he was admitted to a partnership, the firm name being then changed to Dickinson, Webb & Company, and later to Dickinson & Whitley, which relation was maintained until the death of the senior partner in 1904, at which time the business was closed out. For many years he has been engaged in placing loans on realty, his business proving profitable because he has endeavored to satisfy his patrons.

In 1861, in Rochester, Mr. Whitley was united in marriage to Miss Ellen C. Judson, a daughter of A. B. Judson, of that city. They have one daughter, Laura W., now the wife of Frank B. Moore, a manufacturer of book-cases in Detroit, Michigan, as a member of a stock company.

Mr. Whitley has never wavered in his support of the men and measures of the Republican party since age gave to him the right of franchise. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and is well known in Branch county, having been a resident of Coldwater for forty-three years. He is delighted in the changes which have occurred, being anxious for the best development of the county along material, social, intellectual and moral lines. His labor and persistency of purpose have been the resultant factors in his own successful career, and as the years have gone by he has gained an enviable position as a representative business man and valued citizen of this place.

L. F. SCHEIDLER, M. D.

Dr. L. F. Scheidler, who is engaged in the practice of medicine and also superintends his farming interests on section twenty-one, Ovid township, is a native of Ohio, his birth having occurred in Seneca county on the 19th of February, 1855. His father, Daniel Scheidler, was born in Pennsylvania in 1824, and when quite young went with his parents to Ohio, being reared, educated and married in Seneca county. He devoted his at-

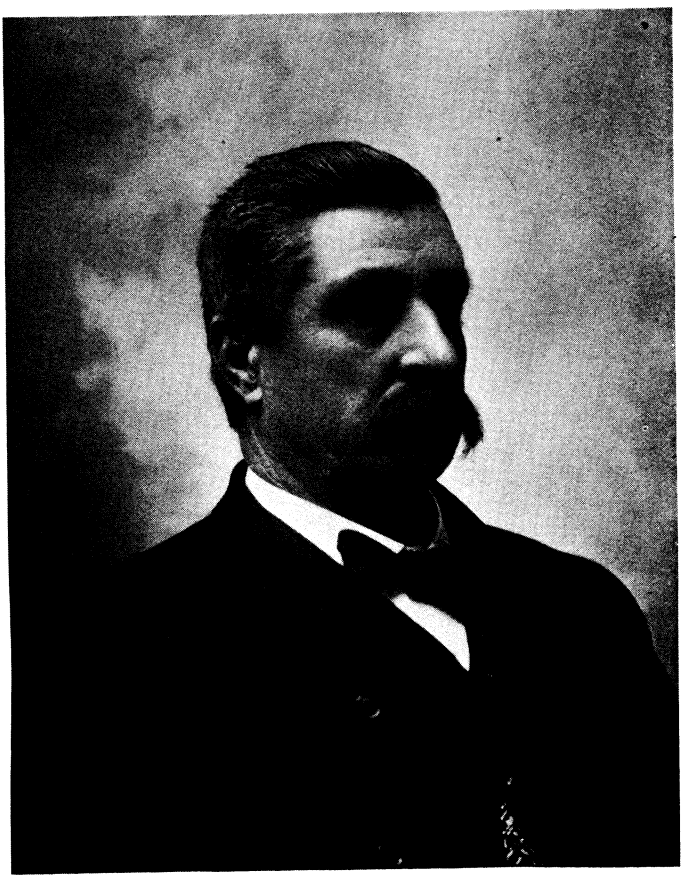
tention to agricultural pursuits as a life work and became a representative citizen of the community in which he lived. He wedded Miss Katherine Ann Killinger, who became a resident of Stark county, Ohio, in her early girlhood and there spent her youth. In 1862 Mr. Scheidler brought his family to Branch county, Michigan, taking up his abode on the present farm in Ovid township. He bought one hundred and forty-eight acres of land, of which he cleared fifty-two acres, and his attention was given to the further cultivation and development of the property, with the result that he was known as an enterprising and prosperous agriculturist of the community. In his political views he was an earnest Republican, actively associated with the work of the party. He possessed many excellent traits of character and was well known in Branch county, where the circle of his friends was almost co-extensive with the circle of his acquaintance. His death occurred May 12, 1880, while his wife died in 1874. They were the parents of eleven children, six sons and five daughters, all of whom were born in Seneca county, Ohio.

Dr. Scheidler, the youngest son and ninth child, was seven years of age when his father came to Branch county, and for three years he was a student in the public schools of Coldwater. Having completed his literary course the problem confronted him as to a choice of a life work, and after careful consideration of the matter he determined to engage in the practice of medicine. In 1884 he went to Chicago and matriculated in the Bennett Medical College, from which he was graduated in the class of 1889. He then returned to Branch county and entered upon the active work of the profession at Kinderhook, where he remained for about seven years, when he returned to the old home farm in Ovid township. He is still practicing, receiving a large patronage from the residents of Ovid township, and his knowledge and ability well qualify him to care for those who come under his professional charge. At the same time he is managing his farming interests, having a good tract of land on section twenty-one.

On the 12th of August, 1883, Dr. Scheidler was married to Miss Lulah Thompson, a daughter of Joseph and Emma (Butterfield) Thompson, who were farming people of Branch county, coming to this state from Ohio. Mrs. Scheidler was born in Seneca county, Ohio, in 1862 and was brought by her parents to Michigan in her early girlhood days, so that she was largely reared and educated here. The doctor and his wife now have one son, Dwyte, who was born June 27, 1884. Dr. Scheidler votes an independent ticket, and though not active in politics he is interested in all that pertains to his county's development. In his business life he displays a marked energy and enterprise and these qualities are essential to success in both professional and agricultural lines.

THOMAS C. KNAPP, M. D.

Dr. Thomas C. Knapp, who is living retired in Union City, was born in Vermilion county, Ohio, March 27, 1840, his parents being William and Clara (Day) Knapp. The father was born in Pennsylvania and became



Thomas E. Knapp, M. D.



mrs Cathrene Knapp

one of the pioneer residents of Ohio, where he remained until his removal to Branch county, Michigan, in 1840, locating here when this was a frontier district. He settled first in Union township about a mile south of Union City, and a part of his land is now within the incorporation limits. He bought his property at six dollars per acre, becoming owner of a tract of one hundred and ninety acres, which he greatly improved. He added many buildings there, fenced his land and continued the work of cultivation along most modern lines, making his farm a very productive and valuable one. He continued to engage in general agricultural pursuits throughout his entire life. His wife was born near Rutland, Vermont, and they became the parents of thirteen children, twelve of whom reached manhood or womanhood. There were five daughters and eight sons.

Dr. Knapp, the ninth member of the family, was not yet three months old when brought by his parents to Branch county, and his boyhood days were spend on the old homestead farm in Union township, while in the common schools he obtained his early education. Through the summer months he worked in the fields and remained with his father until twenty-one years of age, when he started out in life on his own account. He then purchased a piece of land, but afterward sold that property, and at the time of the Civil war he put aside all business and personal considerations, enlisting in 1862 as a member of Company K, Seventh Michigan Volunteer Infantry. With that command he served until hostilities had ceased, the stars and stripes having been raised over the capitol of the southern Confederacy. He was several times wounded, the first time at Brush Creek, Virginia. He took part in many important engagements, including the battles of the Wilderness, Cold Harbor, Spottsylvania and the siege of Petersburg, and he was also slightly wounded there. He was with Hancock's corps and second division, and he received an honorable discharge at Elmira, New York, in July, 1865, returning to his home with a creditable military record.

When the war was over Dr. Knapp made his way again to Union City, and in this locality purchased a farm. He had been married on the 1st of January, 1863, to Miss Catherine Tylor, a daughter of Lansing and Mary (Lenderman) Tylor. Three children graced this union: William C.; Ada, the wife of T. F. Robinson; and John C. Both sons are farmers of Union township and Mr. Robinson follows the same pursuit.

Dr. Knapp took his bride to his farm and continued to engage in general agricultural pursuits until 1880, when he traded his property in Michigan for a tract of wild land in North Dakota. He then removed to that state and began the cultivation of his place, making his home thereon until 1902, when he retired to Union City. Here he again bought land in Union township, but one-half of his farm lies across the boundary line in Calhoun county. He has one hundred and sixty-five acres, which he rents and makes his home in Union City. When a young man he studied veterinary surgery and has practiced the profession for about forty years, being quite successful in that department of work. He was appointed territorial veterinary for North and South Dakota when all were embraced within

one boundary under the territorial government, and for three years he occupied that position. Mr. Knapp has always been an earnest Republican, and has been elected supervisor for nine different terms in North Dakota. He was chairman of the board twice during that period, and he has ever been interested in matters pertaining to general improvement and substantial development. He has made an untarnished record and unspotted reputation as a business man. In all places and under all circumstances he is loyal to truth and right, justly valuing his own respect as preferable to wealth and position. He has, however, in a business career won gratifying success, so that he is enabled to live retired and yet enjoy all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

JOHN H. WILKINS.

In the populous and prosperous county of Branch there are very few people who can boast a continuous residence here of sixty-eight years, but such has been the experience of the gentleman named above, Mr. John H. Wilkins, one of the respected and well-to-do agriculturists of this portion of the state. In fact, a history in detail of his life and experiences would prove to be at the same time a fair and accurate history of Gilead township and Branch county, for all of its development and improvement have been accomplished during his lifetime.

The Wilkins family is of English descent, the paternal great-grandfather of our subject being named John Wilkins, who came from Great Britain to America with his family in the latter part of the eighteenth century, locating in New Jersey. John Wilkins' wife's name was Hannah and they were married in England, while one of their sons, Thomas, who was born in New Jersey, July 25, 1774, became the grandfather of our subject. Thomas married Elizabeth Miller, whose father, Zepheniah Miller, was killed by the Indians on the Delaware river when Elizabeth was but a child, she and her mother escaping the Indian slaughter by hiding in a cleft of the rocks on the river banks until after the slaughter. Thomas Wilkins and Elizabeth Miller were married in New Jersey and they soon thereafter removed to Ross county, Ohio, where they made a home and raised their family. Their children numbered nine, seven of whom grew to maturity, as follows: Samuel, Thomas, Keturah, Hannah, John, Zepheniah and Benjamin, the last named being our subject's father.

Benjamin Wilkins was reared in Ross county, Ohio, on the home farm, where he was born March 20, 1814, and in the late twenties he accompanied his parents in their removal to Marion county, Ohio. In 1831 Benjamin made a prospecting trip into Branch county, Michigan, and returned to Ohio, where he was married in the year 1836 to Malinda Matson, a native of Genesee county, New York, where she was born November 23, 1819. She was the daughter of Job Matson, a native of Vermont, who had seven children, Allen, Esther, Dinah, Catherine, Job, Susan and Malinda.

Soon after their marriage Benjamin and Malinda Wilkins came to this county and located land on section thirteen, in what is now Gilead township, securing one hundred and sixty acres from the government, to which

he later added one hundred and forty-five acres additional. He cleared the most of the original one hundred and sixty acres and also a portion of the one hundred and forty-five acres, and was a hard-working and industrious man in spite of physical infirmities. Nine children were born unto Benjamin and Malinda Wilkins, as follows: The eldest, John H., is the subject of this review; Keturah Walter lives in Gilead; Charlotte died at the age of twelve years; Thomas A., Job, Allen and Almon died in infancy; Hannah Outwater died in 1875; Sussanah Bixler lives in Gilead. The father and mother of this family were most highly esteemed people, the former being in earlier years a member of the Disciples church and the latter a Free Will Baptist, although both later were Adventists. Benjamin Wilkins died August 17, 1874, while his wife passed away February 28, 1883.

Our subject, John H. Wilkins, was born in Gilead township March 20, 1838, and with the exception of two years in infancy, when he was in Ohio, his entire life has been passed here. Growing up on the farm, he assisted in the clearing and improvement of the same, and September 20, 1860, he was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Graves, who was born in Cayuga county, Ohio, August 17, 1844. She was the daughter of Almond S. Graves, who was born in Oneida county, New York, in 1811, and Almina McClaflin Graves, who was born in Ohio in 1823. Almond S. Graves and his wife came to Michigan and Branch county in 1857, locating on section fourteen, Gilead township, where Mr. Graves purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land and made a home. Three daughters were born to them as follows: Elizabeth Wilkins is the wife of our subject; Lucinda Kinzie and Hattie Sanders live in Gilead township.

The marriage of John H. Wilkins and Elizabeth Graves Wilkins has been blessed with the birth of twelve children, three of whom, E. E., Almon B. and Homer, died in infancy. A record of the others, all of whom are living, is as follows: William H. married Jennie Conklin and their home is in Kinderhook township. They have three daughters living, Ethel, Louise and Mildred, the eldest of whom, Ethel, is the wife of Clyde Brown, of Kinderhook, they in turn having one daughter, Catherine. Benjamin married Bertha Aldridge and they have a daughter, Gertrude, their home being in Gilead. Emory married Dessie Doerr and they have three children, Verald, Clyde and LeMoyne. Almina M. is the wife of Edson Foster, their one son being Paul. Charlotte is the wife of Jay Steffey, their sons being Clifford and Maurice. Fred married Effie Flint, they having two sons, John and Ira. John Delos married Vera Case. They have two children, George and Janet. Burton M. married Valma Weaver, their one daughter being Geneva. Harry E. married Carma Pifer and they live at the Wilkins home. With the exception of the eldest son, William H., who resides in the adjoining township of Kinderhook, all of the children live in Gilead township, near their parents.

The farm of Mr. John H. Wilkins now embraces one hundred and sixty acres of fertile land, the same including the most of the original farm obtained by Benjamin Wilkins from the government in the early thirties,

and which has ever since been in possession of the family. Mr. and Mrs. Wilkins have the original deed of their land, executed by President Martin Van Buren in the year 1839, on May 1st. This is a valuable souvenir in their home. They also have an old wooden clock which is yet keeping time, and it is over a century old. Mr. Wilkins has helped his mother card and pick wool for making their clothes, and even helped her put in the loom. His grandfather Matson brought a cow from Ohio in the pioneer days, and to-day Mr. Wilkins has on his farm a descendant of that cow. In relics he has fire tongs and shovel of over one hundred years of age. Mr. Wilkins has cleared the greater part of this place and he has also made all of the improvements, including the buildings, which are substantial and modern. He is in politics a Republican and he has filled numerous offices. He was township treasurer for three years, an office also filled by his father in the early days of the township, and for thirty years he has been a school officer, having been director, assessor and moderator. His first presidential vote was cast for Abraham Lincoln and he has always been loyal to his party. In former years he was an Adventist and he and his wife have always been church attendants. Mr. Wilkins has also always been deeply interested in Sunday-school work and was superintendent thereof for many years.

During his life-long residence in Gilead township he has ever been identified with all movements tending toward the uplifting and betterment of mankind and in the development and improvement of this part of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Wilkins have reared their large family of children well and carefully and now they see them all with families and comfortable homes of their own. They have fifteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild, and all of these descendants live within a few miles of the old homestead, where they often gather in reunion. Here upon the farm which has been their home for so many years Mr. and Mrs. Wilkins still reside, passing their declining years in comfort and with the consciousness of well-spent and honorable lives.

BURNLEY FOOTE.

Time and man have wrought many changes in Branch county. The traveler of a few decades ago looking upon the great forests could scarcely realize that within a comparatively short time the timber lands would be cleared and that to-day Branch county would be considered one of the best farming districts of this great state. Mr. Foote is a worthy representative of agricultural interests, living in Matteson township. He was born in Martinsburg, Knox county, Ohio, on the 17th of July, 1840. His father, Garwood Foote, was a tanner, currier and shoemaker, acquainting himself with those trades in early life. He was born in Vermont on the 17th of April, 1814, and was reared in the town of Sharon, Rutland county. In early manhood, however, he left New England and emigrated to Ohio, taking up his abode in Knox county about 1835. There he established a tan yard and embarked in business, following that trade for some time. He also engaged in shoe making in Knox county and was a worthy representative

of the industrial life of that section of Ohio. He was married there to Miss Celestia Eddy, a daughter of Peter Eddy, of St. Lawrence county, New York, where she was born November 22, 1816. Her girlhood was passed in the Empire state and she accompanied her parents on their removal to Ohio, where they settled in a pioneer district. Mr. and Mrs. Foote became the parents of five children, three sons and two daughters, of whom Burnley is the eldest. The others were: Jerome, Peter, Angeline and Emily. The mother died in Knox county, Ohio, in 1851, and the father afterward married again, in 1853, his second union being with Lucinda Dillan, the widow of Simon Dillan, by whom she had three children, two sons and one daughter, Josephine. By the second marriage there were also three children, two sons and a daughter. In 1863 Garwood Foote brought his family to Illinois, settling near Bloomington, where he remained until 1876. He then sold his farming interests and closed out all of his business affairs and retired to private life, making his home with his children up to the time of his death, which occurred October 16, 1891. He was a stanch Democrat and a man of genuine personal worth, respected and honored by all who knew him.

Burnley Foote was reared and educated in the county of his nativity and his time in his boyhood was divided between play and work as he performed the tasks assigned him by his father. When the country became involved in the Civil war he was a young man of twenty-one years, and in the first year of that long and fierce struggle he offered his services to the government, enlisting in Company B, Fourth Ohio Infantry, with which he served for two years and five months. He afterward spent one year and eight months as a member of the Fifth Illinois Cavalry. He participated in the second battle of Bull Run and in the engagements at Grafton, Clarksburg, Beverly, Buchanan, Philippi, New Creek and Oakland. At the last place he went into winter quarters and was there taken ill and discharged on a surgeon's certificate of disability. Mr. Foote then returned home, but when he had regained his health he re-enlisted on the 22d of February, 1864, in the Fifth Illinois Cavalry, with which he served throughout the remainder of the period of hostilities. His last service was in chasing the James boys and Quantrell's gang. When the war was ended he returned to Springfield, Illinois, and was mustered out October 27, 1865. He had been a brave and loyal soldier and returned to his home with a creditable military record.

His first occupation after the war ended was dealing in stock and carrying on farm work at Bloomington, Illinois, where he remained for two years. He then went to Chatsworth, that state, and afterward to Woodford county, Illinois, whence he subsequently made his way to Nebraska, settling in Buffalo county, and in the west he was engaged in hunting buffaloes for five years. Returning to the district east of the Mississippi he took up his abode in Branch county in 1876, locating in Matteson township upon a farm of sixty acres of raw land. With characteristic energy he began the cultivation and improvement of this place and he has since added twenty acres to the original tract and now has the entire farm under a good state of cultivation. He has erected all of the present buildings and his farm is

attractive because of the improvements he has placed upon it, which have also added greatly to its value. The fields annually return rich harvests and he uses the latest improved machinery in planting and cultivating his crops.

Mr. Foote was married in White Oak Grove, Woodford county, Illinois, in 1867, the lady of his choice being Miss Lousetta Stephens, a native of Clinton county, Ohio, born March 19, 1848, and a daughter of Jesse and Elizabeth Stephens. Her father was born April 22, 1817, and died on the 14th of August, 1903, while the mother was born May 10, 1816. She was of Quaker lineage and departed this life on the 25th of August, 1887. In the family of this worthy couple were six children, Mrs. Foote being the fourth in order of birth and the third of the four daughters. The family record is as follows: Hannah L., born May 5, 1840; Julia A., September 7, 1842; James, born May 5, 1845; Lousetta Amanda, November 22, 1854; and Charles, October 1, 1859. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Foote has been blessed with four children and three were born in Illinois and one in Nebraska. They also lost one son, William, who was born January 21, 1869, being the second of the family. The others were Edward, born November 13, 1867; Jesse, born May 2, 1871; and Lillian M., born November 19, 1874.

In his fraternal relations Mr. Foote is connected with the Grand Army of the Republic at Bronson and is also a member of the Grange there. He votes with the Republican party, which he has supported since attaining his majority, and has been to a greater or less extent active in political circles. He served as justice of the peace for two years and as drain commissioner for eight years, and in discharging his duties manifested the same fidelity and loyalty to the public good that he displayed when following the stars and stripes upon southern battlefields.

HIRAM BRONSON HAWLEY.

Hiram Bronson Hawley, whose name is on the roll of pioneer citizens of Branch county, now lives on section twenty-two, Union township. He was born in Lewiston, Niagara county, New York, May 17, 1825. His paternal grandfather, Chapman Hawley, also became a resident of Branch county in pioneer times. He was a soldier of the Revolutionary war, loyally aiding the colonists in their struggle for independence. His son, Lewis Hawley, was a soldier of the war of 1812. The latter was born in Lewiston, Niagara county, New York, and came west to Michigan in 1836, casting in his lot with the pioneer settlers of Union township, Branch county. Much of the land was still unclaimed, the forests were uncut, the streams unbridged and the fields uncultivated. There were hardships and privations to be borne such as can hardly be imagined by people of the present generation, who know only modern prosperity and progress, and to the worthy pioneers who faced all the difficulties of life here in an early day, a debt of gratitude is due that can never be repaid. The place in which the father lived became known as the Hawley settlement. He continued farming operations in that locality

until called to his final rest at the age of seventy-three years. He married Charlotte Barnard, a native of Lewiston, New York, who reached the age of sixty-five years. They were the parents of twelve children, all of whom were born in Lewiston.

Hiram B. Hawley, the eighth member of the family, was only eleven years of age when brought by his parents to Branch county, and he was therefore reared to manhood in Union township. In retrospect one can see him as he trudged each day to the little log school house in the midst of the forest to master the elementary branches of learning therein taught. His father's home was also a log cabin constructed without nails. He aided in the arduous task of developing a new farm. His life at that time was indeed a strenuous one, for it was customary to enter the fields at daybreak and continue the work of cultivation until after nightfall. At the age of nineteen years he began learning the blacksmith's trade, serving a three years' apprenticeship under John D. Zimmerman at Union City. When he had mastered the business he established a shop of his own in Union City and conducted it for about four years, during which time his economy and labor brought him a goodly capital, which he wisely invested in eighty acres of land in Union township. It was all covered with a dense growth of timber, but in the midst of the green woods he resolutely set to work to carve out a home and farm. He first built a log house, in which he lived for a time, but later he resumed work at his trade, establishing a shop at Coldwater, and afterward removed to Colon in St. Joseph county, Michigan. There he also built a shop, which he conducted for a time, when he sold out and again took up his abode on his farm in Union township. He cleared the greater portion of the eighty acres and engaged in the raising of crops for a number of years, but subsequently he once more settled in Coldwater and again engaged in blacksmithing. In seven years he moved fourteen times. In 1850 he located on a farm in Batavia township, and thirty-five years passed before he left that place. In 1885, however, he purchased the farm upon which he now resides on section twenty-two, Union township, paying seventy-five dollars per acre for his land. He has since improved the place in many ways. He had the misfortune to have his house with nearly all of its contents destroyed by fire, but he at once replaced it with a good modern residence that he now occupies.

In 1847 Mr. Hawley was married to Miss Rowena Harris. They have two sons, Walter and Jerome. They have traveled life's journey happily together for almost six decades, sharing with each other its joys and sorrows, its adversity and prosperity. In early days Mr. Hawley gave his political support to the Whig party, with which he was connected until the new Republican party was formed, when he joined its ranks. He was a staunch advocate of the Union cause, and he had four brothers who were soldiers in the Civil war, but only one is now living. Mr. Hawley has been a resident of Branch county for nearly seventy years and is truly one of its pioneer settlers. In early days he hauled flour from Union City to Jackson with an ox team, getting fifty cents per barrel. It required about five days to make the trip. Through his own energy and perseverance, and the assistance of

his estimable wife, who has indeed been a helpmate to him, he has had a prosperous career and is now the owner of a valuable farm property, possessing a competence that supplies them with all of the comforts and many of the luxuries of life. His mind forms a connecting link between the primitive past and the progressive present, and few men are better informed concerning the pioneer history of this section of the state than H. B. Hawley.

EBER J. DAVIS.

Eber J. Davis, superintendent of the large plant of the Wolverine Portland Cement Company at Quincy, was born in Ovid township, Branch county, July 2, 1865, and his business career has been mainly connected with the county of his birth. He is a son of the late George Davis, who, a native of Cayuga county, New York, died in 1901 in his seventy-ninth year. The grandfather, Robert Davis, was also born in New York state, being of English descent. George Davis came to Michigan in 1851, and was a respected and prosperous farmer of Ovid township until his death. Starting in life with an ordinary education, and being in the main a self-made man, he prospered by the application of industry and good judgment in his affairs, and was able to leave his family in good circumstances. He was a Democrat in politics, but never aspired to office.

George Davis married Marietta Zeluff, who, now living at the age of sixty-five, is one of the oldest natives of Ovid township. Her father, Joseph Zeluff, a native of New York and of English descent, came to Michigan in 1831, locating on a farm one mile south of Coldwater, the place being now owned by Mr. Beidelman, and from there moved to Ovid township, and kept his home there until his death at the age of about sixty years. Mr. and Mrs. George Davis had two sons, the younger, Nelson G., being an employe of the Lake Shore Railroad and living at Batavia.

Mr. E. J. Davis was reared on a farm, attended school in the country, and at an early age began learning the trade of carpenter, which he followed altogether twenty-four years, most of the time as a contractor and builder in Chicago. In 1894 he became foreman carpenter for the Bronson Portland Cement Company at Bronson, continued in that capacity a year and a half, was then in a similar position with the Wolverine Cement Company eight months, and for three years following was again with the Bronson company as superintendent of their plant. In 1902 he transferred his home and business to Quincy, when he became superintendent of the Wolverine Cement Company's plant at this place. He is an energetic and capable manager of affairs and men, and has filled his position in Quincy and elsewhere with very creditable success.

In 1892 Mr. Davis married Ardella A. Smith. She was born in Bethel township in 1864, and her parents, Hiram H. and Mary (Smead) Smith, both now deceased, were early settlers of this county, her father having come here from his native state of Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Davis have no children of their own, but their home has been blessed with the presence of a daughter by Mrs. Davis' first marriage, Maud L. Fenner, who is now

capably filling the position of stenographer in the main office of the Wolverine Cement Company at Coldwater. Mr. Davis has identified himself public-spiritedly with the town of his present residence, and is now serving as a member of the village council. In politics he is a Republican, and is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity.

J. D. MOSHER.

J. D. Mosher, secretary of the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company at Coldwater, was born in Coldwater township, his natal day being February 8, 1860. His father, Edwin Mosher, was born in Cayuga county, New York, and came to Michigan with his father, James Mosher, in 1835, when six years of age. Here he was reared amid the environment and conditions of pioneer life, acquiring his education in one of the primitive schools of the period. He was married in Coldwater township to Miss Ellen Whitney, a native of Ontario county, New York, and they began their domestic life upon a farm in Coldwater township. Later they removed to the city, but subsequently lived in Kinderhook township for a long period. In their last years, however, they were residents of Coldwater, and both died at the age of sixty-nine years. Mr. Mosher voted with the Democracy and was well known in the county as a man of good business capacity, of loyalty in citizenship and of devotion and fidelity in friendship. Unto him and his wife were born two children, but the daughter, Rita L., died at the age of forty-one years. She was the wife of S. W. Weage, a stock buyer of Coldwater.

Mr. Mosher, the only son and now the only surviving member of the family, was seven years of age when his parents took up their abode upon the home farm in Kinderhook township. He attended the common schools near by and afterward continued his education in the high school of Fremont and in Hillsdale College. Later he taught in the district schools of Branch county, proving a capable educator because of his ability to impart clearly and readily to others the knowledge that he had acquired. He was also called to public office by his fellow townsmen who recognized his worth and ability. For six years he served as township clerk of Kinderhook township and was holding that office when elected county treasurer in 1892. He then took up his abode in Coldwater in order to discharge the duties of his new position, and for four years he was the guardian of the public funds, retiring from office as he had entered it, with the confidence and good will of all concerned. In 1898 he was made secretary of the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company, previous to which time he had been engaged in general insurance business, and was therefore well qualified for the important duties that devolved upon him in connection with his new position. He had also been bookkeeper in a hardware store for some time, and at the present writing he is with the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company, having an office at Coldwater, from which point he superintends the work that devolves upon him. He also owns a well improved farm of one hundred and seventy-six acres in Kinderhook township.

In August, 1898, occurred the marriage of Mr. Mosher and Miss Mar-

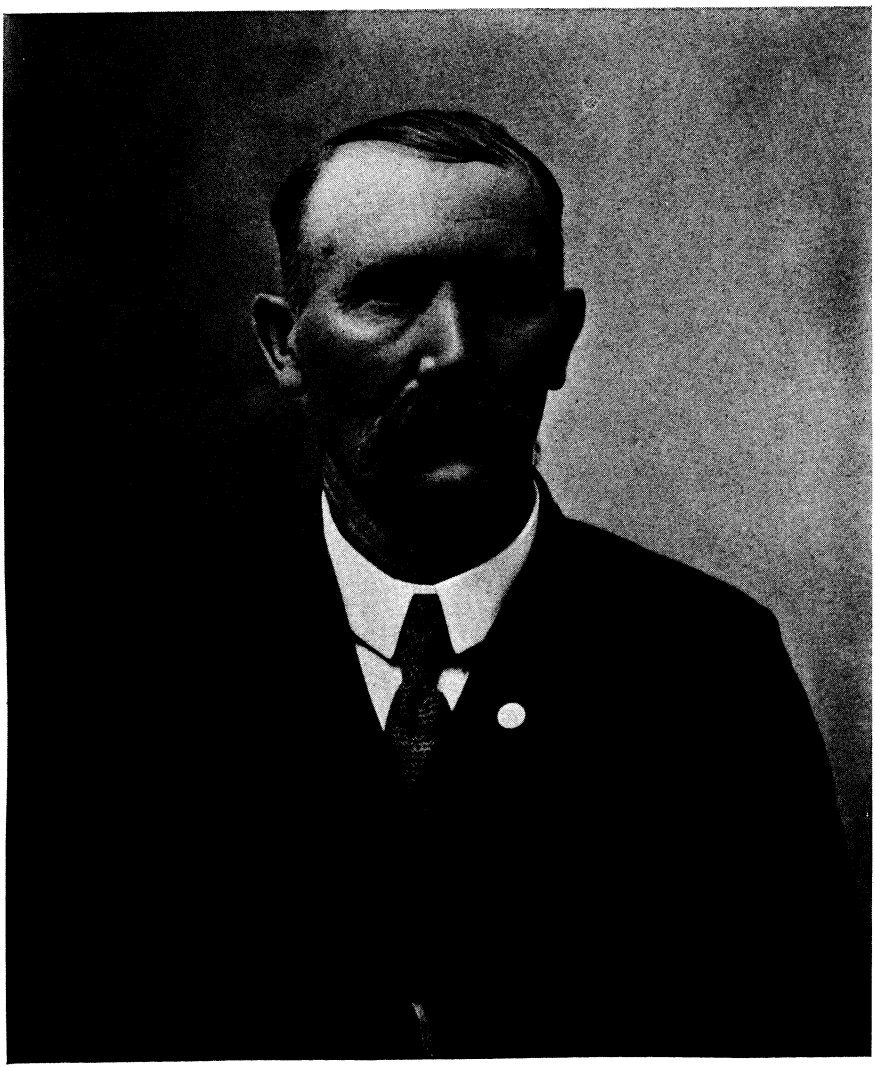
thena Hastings, a daughter of John and Mary (McKinney) Hastings, and a native of Tecumseh, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Mosher have one son, Edwin H.

Mr. Mosher votes with the Republican party and firmly adheres to its principles. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and to the Knights of Pythias fraternity, while his wife is a member of the Presbyterian church. Although he is still a comparatively young man, he has lived for forty-five years in Branch county, and may therefore be classed with its early settlers. Since attaining his majority he has spent much of his time in public office, and over the record of his career there falls no shadow of wrong or suspicion of evil.

CHARLES L. BURNETT.

George Washington said that "farming is the most useful as well as the most honorable occupation of man," and the truth stands to-day and has stood through all the years which have run their course since the sentiment was uttered by the father of his country. Mr. Burnett, a representative of agricultural interests in Branch county, is now living on Section 14, Union township, upon the farm where occurred his birth on the 17th of November, 1844. His father, Orris Burnett, was a native of New York and came to Branch county in 1835, casting in his lot with its pioneer settlers. He took up his abode in Union township, where he purchased land for ten shillings per acre, and he built thereon a shanty, after which he erected a log house. Still later this pioneer home was replaced by a frame dwelling, and when some years had passed he built a still more commodious and modern frame house. The changes in his residence indicate his progressive spirit, which is manifest as well in all of his farm work. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and a man whom to know was to esteem and honor. He married Miss Diantha Millerman, and they became the parents of eight children, all of whom were born in Union township with one exception.

Charles L. Burnett, the fifth child and third son in this family, spent his boyhood days in his parents' home, obtaining his education in Union township. He remained under the parental roof until after the outbreak of the Civil war. He was not quite seventeen years of age when he responded to his country's call for troops, enlisting on the 17th of September, 1861, as a member of Company D, Fourth Michigan Light Artillery. He served for the full term of three years and then re-enlisted, becoming a veteran of the same company, with which he continued until after the cessation of hostilities, making his entire term three years and ten months. He was with the western army and participated in many of the hotly contested engagements, whose result led to the splendid success which ultimately crowned the Union arms. He took part in the battles of Murfreesboro, Chickamauga, Stone River, Hoover's Gap and many minor engagements. He was one of the youngest members of his regiment and was in active continuous service, no soldier of twice his years displaying greater valor and loyalty than did Mr. Burnett. He may well be proud of his army record.



C L Bennett



Mrs. C. L. Bennett

Following his return from the war Mr. Burnett resumed the occupation of farming in Union township, and in October, 1866, he secured a companion and helpmate for life's journey by his marriage to Miss Lorana Morey, a daughter of Alfred and Annice (Bickford) Morey, who was one of the early settlers of Union township, and at his death the following lines were written:

"On Monday afternoon, Alfred B. Morey, one of the pioneer residents of Union township, died at his home about two miles south of this city, on the Coldwater road, at the advanced age of seventy-eight years and six months. The cause of his death was paralysis, from which he had suffered for several years past. Mr. Morey was born at Harpersville, Ohio, and came to Michigan when twenty-five years of age. He had lived on the homestead where he died for twenty-eight years. He was twice married, the first wife being Annice Bickford. To them was born one child, Mrs. C. L. Burnett, who is still a resident of this township. In the second marriage he espoused Lucy A. Eddy, who with two sons, Frank E. and Allen J., still survive him. The funeral took place from the home at one o'clock Wednesday afternoon, Rev. H. S. Mills, pastor of the Congregational church, officiating. Interment was made in Riverside cemetery and thus was laid to rest one who had been honored and esteemed in the community during all the long years of his residence here." Mrs. Burnett's mother died when she was eight years old.

Mr. and Mrs. Burnett began their domestic life upon section fourteen, Union township, where they have since resided, Mr. Burnett giving his time and attention to general agricultural pursuits and also to some extent following the carpenter's trade. He has one hundred and ten acres of land and is a well-to-do agriculturist, having gained a gratifying measure of success in the conduct of his business interests.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Burnett have been born three children: Ardell, the wife of C. E. Brooks, of Union township; Carrie B., the wife of Ed Sanderson, of the same township; and La Verne, who died at the age of nineteen years. The death of La Verne Burnett, of Union, November 9th, was a remarkable instance of typhoid fever, where the temperature remained normal during the ten weeks' illness of the patient. In this case the thermometer of the physician did not indicate the ordinary symptoms of the disease. Dr. Wood, of this city, was called in the case and diagnosed the disease as typhoid poisoning without the fever. Such cases are very rare, the first one reported in medical journals being by Dr. Liebmister, of Berlin, in 1869. During the Franco-Prussian war a number of similar cases were reported, but they occur so seldom that many physicians who practice for a lifetime never have the opportunity to prescribe for a patient with this disease. The post mortem disclosed the typhoid lesions in the lower intestines, which showed that the diagnosis of Dr. Wood was correct.

Politically Mr. Burnett is a Republican, having given his allegiance to the party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He has served as highway commissioner for five years and has held other local offices. He belongs to Corbin Post, G. A. R., No. 88, and Mrs. Burnett belongs to the Women's Relief Corps No. 25, at Union City. She is also president of the

East Union Aid Society, whose object is to aid the poor and needy. Mr. Burnett is well known in the county where the circle of his friends is constantly increasing as the circle of his acquaintance is extended.

MRS. MOSES T. ABEL.

Mrs. Moses T. Abel lives upon a fertile farm of one hundred and ten acres located upon section four, Girard township, which place has been her home for the past forty years. Her maiden name was Celestia A. Bradley and she was born in Girard township July 31, 1837. Her father was Addiniram Bradley, who was born in Sandersfield, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, October 29, 1799, where he grew to manhood. There he was united in marriage with Sally Fegles, who was born in Massachusetts, March 21, 1804. They lived for a number of years in the state of New York before coming to Michigan, where they were among the early pioneers. They were the parents of three children, one son and two daughters, as follows: Alvah G., who was born in New York state October 21, 1824, and who died in Genesee county, in that state, October 7, 1833, when he was only nine years of age. Emma Bradley, the elder daughter, was born in Wyoming county, New York, January 16, 1831, while Celestia Bradley Abel, the younger daughter, is the subject of this sketch. Addiniram Bradley and his wife were among the most highly esteemed residents of this vicinity, and they always exercised a power for good in the community. Mrs. Bradley died in Tekonsha, January 25, 1859, and her husband survived her for many years, passing away May 15, 1883. Deacon Bradley, as he was familiarly known, was an active and zealous member of the Tekonsha Baptist church, of which he was an officer for many years, and his memory is still honored and revered by many relatives and friends.

The elder daughter of the Bradley family, Emma, was married to Moses T. Abel in Girard, April 18, 1847, and they were the parents of three children, one of whom died in early childhood. The two still living are as follows: Lovina is married to Edwin French, of Marshall, Michigan, and they have five children: Mabel wedded Bert Mitchell, and has one little son, John Earl; Merton, Ernest, Ida and Ray. Delina is married to Nelson Shedd, of Tekonsha, and five children have been born to them: Clyde, George, Glenn, Leon and Dorne. Emma Bradley Abel died in Girard, December 16, 1859, and March 4, 1860, Mr. Abel was married to his deceased wife's sister, Celestia A. Bradley. To them six children were born, all of whom are living with the exception of one daughter, Emma, who was born July 4, 1870, and who died April 13, 1876, at the age of six years. The other children are as follows: Elmer was born May 25, 1861, and is married to Ida Foster. They have two children: Nettie and Elmer. Eugene was born July 2, 1863, and is married to Anna Finney, and they have one daughter, Eva Belle. Fred was born March 24, 1865, and is married to Laura Annis. They have three children: George, Ethel and Frank. Willbur C. was born April 28, 1868, and is married to Stella Hadlock. They have four children: Hazel, Clayton, Alfred and Marie. Lena Abel was born January 28, 1873,

and is married to Alfred Hadlock, and for the present they are living with Mrs. Abel upon the home farm. Edah Abel was born July 18, 1877, and is married to Clark McDonald, of Union City, Michigan, and they have one son, Louis. The four sons are all residents of Tekonsha, where they are engaged in business on their own account. Here they have comfortable homes of their own and are counted as prosperous and influential citizens.

Mr. Moses T. Abel was a native of Newport, Herkimer county, New York, where he was born November 10, 1819, and he came to Michigan in an early day, he being the only member of his family to emigrate westward. He had two brothers and one sister, all of whom are now dead. He located upon the land now owned and occupied by his widow, and here he made a home for himself and his loved ones. When he secured possession of the land it was in a perfectly wild state, not an acre cleared, and all covered with the virgin forest. He cleared the land, erected suitable buildings and brought the farm under a good state of cultivation. The remainder of his life was passed here, and before his death he had created a most comfortable farm home. Mr. Abel was always a farmer, and although he was not a member of any fraternal or religious society, nevertheless he was known as a temperate, industrious and most estimable man, possessing in a marked degree the confidence and esteem of his neighbors and fellow townsmen. He died October 17, 1893, leaving behind him that best of all heritages, a good name.

After his death Mrs. Abel, although previously unversed in business affairs, soon adapted herself to the changed conditions and carried on the management of the farm, which she personally controls at the present time. She has cared for her children and the children of her sister, has raised and educated them and now sees them all with comfortable homes of their own. She continues to make her home upon the old homestead, although she spends many happy days in the families of her grown-up sons and daughters. Mrs. Abel is a member of the Baptist church of Tekonsha and she possesses the confidence and regard of a very large circle of friends.

HARVY D. MILLER.

Harvy D. Miller is one of the old settlers of Branch county, living on section eleven, Batavia township, where he devotes his energies to agricultural pursuits. He was born in Wolcott, Wayne county, New York, September 28, 1822, a son of Daniel and Penina (Terrel) Miller, the former a native of Scipio, Cayuga county, New York, and the latter a native of Connecticut. The mother was reared in the Green Mountain state and was a daughter of Job Terrel, who was likewise born in Connecticut. Daniel Miller spent the days of his boyhood and youth in the Empire state and became a physician and merchant, following the two business pursuits in Steuben and Yates county. He came to Michigan in 1840, settling in Batavia township, where he entered one hundred and twenty acres of land. There his death occurred at the age of seventy-six years. He had been active, influential and prominent in public life and for twenty-two years served as justice of the peace, discharging his duties with promptness and fidelity and with due regard to

the law in the case. His political allegiance was given to the Whig party until the organization of the new Republican party, when he joined its ranks. Although he held membership with no church, he contributed to the support of church work and was ever a man of upright and honorable principles, whose life commended him to the confidence and regard of those who knew him. His wife reached the age of seventy-seven years.

Harvy D. Miller is the oldest in a family of two sons and two daughters, but three of the number died in infancy, so that he is now the only survivor. During the period of his boyhood and youth he remained a resident of New York, and when twenty years of age he came to Branch county, Michigan. He cast his first presidential vote for Harrison in Branch, then the county seat of this county. He had been educated in his native state and had remained with his father on the home farm, where he was trained to habits of industry, economy and integrity. On the 21st of July, 1844, he was married to Miss Hulda Cooley, and they became the parents of two sons, John Alvin Turner and Daniel Delevan, both of whom are now deceased. The wife and mother died December 7, 1885, and on the 20th of April, 1887, Mr. Miller was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Emma Dunn Fish, a daughter of Thomas and Alvira (Smith) Dunn. She first became the wife of Professor H. M. Fish, and by that marriage she had one daughter, Clara, who is now the wife of George W. Parker, living at Mr. Miller's home in Batavia township.

At the time of his marriage Mr. Miller located on his present farm, where he remained for some time and then resided in Coldwater for forty-one years, living throughout that entire period in the same house. In 1901 he again took up his abode on the old homestead, "Marsh Mooreland," where he has since remained. While in Coldwater he was an active factor in business life, conducting an auction store there for a number of years, and was associated with Mr. Green, then sheriff of Branch county. He also did business as a public auctioneer for many years and was revenue collector for four years during the period of the Civil war. He owns a farm of two hundred and forty acres, which is splendidly improved, while the land is very rich and productive. His buildings are commodious and substantial, the barn being one of the best in the county. It is a basement barn, sixty by one hundred feet, and aside from this there are good sheds for the shelter of stock and farm machinery. His residence is a modern building and, in fact, everything about the place is in keeping with the progressive spirit of the times—a spirit that has been manifest in agricultural as well as in commercial and professional circles.

In his political views Mr. Miller has been a Republican since the organization of the party. He cast his ballot for John C. Fremont and has voted for each presidential nominee of the party since that time. He was among the first Odd Fellows of Coldwater, and has been a Mason for many years, but because of his age and the fact that he is now residing in the country, he has demitted from those orders. For sixty-five years he has lived in Branch county, and its history has been familiar to him. In fact, he has been identified with the making of the county, as the conditions of pioneer

life have been put aside and the improvements of an advancing civilization have been secured. His memory goes back to the time when the leading cities of the county were but small villages, while some of the towns had not yet sprung into existence. Much of the land was covered with forest trees and little farming had as yet been done. With characteristic energy, however, Mr. Miller began the work of improvement, not only for himself, but also in behalf of the county. Few men have been more widely known in this part of the state, and a genial manner and social disposition have gained him a very extensive circle of friends.

EZRA E. BEARDSLEY.

The history of Branch county shows a wonderful diversification of industries, occupations and resources, gradually developed and grown from the days when it was a pioneer region with its first hardy settlers. In this highly organized community the historically interesting men are those who have been so successful in a certain line of work as to mark them prominent among their fellows, and one of these is Mr. E. E. Beardsley, of Bronson township, who fits into the life and activities of his county as one of the prominent stock farmers. His blooded horses, standard bred and registered, are a specialty of his in which he takes much pride and to which he gives much of his time, and it is through the more than ordinary success that he has gained in this direction that he has become such a well known and efficient factor in the material worth and prosperity of his county.

Thirty-five years in Branch county entitles him to a place among the old citizens, though little more than half his lifetime has been spent here. Of stanch New England ancestry, and inheriting its traits of hardy industry and thrifty honesty, he was born in Monroe, Fairfield county, Connecticut, August 31, 1839, a son of Elisha E. and Laura A. (Burroughs) Beardsley, both natives of the Nutmeg state, where their lives were spent till death, and both bearing names that have been honored in different spheres of the world's life for many generations.

After receiving an education in the common and high schools of his native county, Ezra E. began his career of serious endeavor by learning the trade of hat manufacturer in Yonkers, New York, and for a number of years, while he remained in the east, he was employed in that business. He engaged in the stock business when he came to Branch county in 1870, and this department of farming enterprise, in which his long and broad experience extends up to the present time, has gained for him recognition among the leading horse breeders and raisers in this section of the state. His eight hundred acres of land, part of which is covered with timber, and his beautiful country residence, well built and furnished, form what is well acknowledged to be one of the best country estates in the county.

From the days of the Great Emancipator Mr. Beardsley has cast his vote and influence for the Republican party and policies, and fraternally he is affiliated with Mystic Lodge, F. & A. M., at Bronson.

He married, October 21, 1874, Miss Florence A. Holmes, a daughter of

Jonathan and Mary Holmes, Branch county pioneers who are mentioned elsewhere. Two children have been born of this union, Walton and Jessie G., who are both at home. Walton received a good high school education in the Bronson High School and took a business course in the Kalamazoo Business College. He is associated with his father in the stock business. Jessie G. took a high school course in the Bronson High School and then was a student in The Helmuth Ladies' Seminary at London, Canada. At present she is visiting in Washington, D. C., and the eastern states. She took instrumental music and is an adept in china painting.

Mrs. Beardsley was born in Bronson, Branch county, December 15, 1853, and reared in this county. She was educated in Bronson and Hillsdale College. Her parents are both deceased. Her great-grandfather, Holmes, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and she has a mahogany stand over seventy-five years old. Their beautiful country seat is known as "The Evergreens."

FRED PURDY.

Fred Purdy, following the occupation of farming on section thirty-three, Algansee township, is a native son of this county, his birth having occurred in Ovid township, September 27, 1862. His paternal grandfather, Horace Purdy, was a native of St. Andrews, Canada, and removed with his parents to Seneca county, Ohio, whence he came to Michigan with his brothers in 1836. His brother Ira settled in the town of California and built a small log cabin in 1836, but the brothers resided on Allen prairie. Horace was one of the first settlers in Algansee township, where he entered land from the government. The brothers both contributed in substantial measure to the early pioneer development of this part of the state, and Ira Purdy, living in California township, was depended upon to do the milling for his neighbors, and made long journeys with his splendid team of horses, going as far as Mishawaka, Indiana.

Orange Purdy, father of our subject, was born in Seneca county, Ohio, about 1830, and was brought by his parents to this state. He was one of a family of nine children, namely: Phoebe, the widow of Jonathan Bickford, and now living in Algansee with her son Ira; Erial, a resident of Algansee; Laura, the deceased wife of James Nichols, of Algansee; Alexander and Isaac, both deceased; Sally, the deceased wife of S. Van Horn; Harrison, who is living in Coldwater township; Orange; and George, whose home is in Algansee.

Orange Purdy was reared to farm life amid pioneer surroundings in this county and attended the district schools. The occupation to which he was reared he made his life work, becoming one of the enterprising agriculturists of the community. At the time of the Civil war he enlisted in the First Michigan Sharpshooters, becoming a member of the command in September, 1864. He was in the hospital during the greater part of his service and he continued with the regiment until after the close of hostilities, in 1865. His political allegiance was given to the Republican party, which was the champion of the Union cause during the hour of the country's peril,

which has ever been the party of reform and progress. Socially he affiliated with the Masonic Lodge. He married Miss Martha F. Parker, who was born in Camden, Hillsdale county, this state, and was a daughter of Abel and Climena Parker, who came to Michigan in pioneer times. Mrs. Purdy was one of a family of eight children: Elias, a retired farmer residing in Montgomery, Hillsdale county, Michigan; Laura, who married William Dufur, and is now the widow of Fred Gallup; Mary Jane, the wife of Joseph Gandy, a farmer of De Kalb county, Illinois; Mrs. Jameson, Sarah and Martha, all deceased; Silas, a speculator living in Coldwater; and Charlotte, the widow of John Garbutt, of Sycamore, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Orange Purdy became the parents of three children: Mandana, who was born July 24, 1860, and married Augustus Cleveland, of California township; Fred, of this review; and Orange, who was born June 4, 1864, and is a farmer of Montana. The father departed this life in December, 1865, at the early age of thirty-five years, while his widow long survived and passed away in 1897, at the age of fifty-seven years.

Fred Purdy spent his boyhood days in the usual manner of farm lads, was a district school student and has always engaged in agricultural pursuits. He has lived upon the farm which he now owns since two years of age, and has a splendid property of eighty acres on section thirty-three, Algansee township, the land being rich and productive and yielding him good harvests. In all of his work he is practical, and his labors have been crowned with a gratifying measure of success.

On the 29th of December, 1886, Mr. Purdy was united in marriage to Miss Agnes A. De Pue, who was born in California township, December 17, 1866. Her father, Jeremiah De Pue, a native of Marion county, Ohio, came to Michigan with his parents, Michale and Angeline De Pue. In his early boyhood days they had removed to Jamestown, and finally they came to Michigan, settling in Kinderhook township, Branch county. Jeremiah De Pue afterward became a resident of California township in the '50s. He was a farmer by occupation, but at the time of the Civil war put aside business and personal considerations in order to aid his country in establishing the supremacy of the Union. He was in the Civil war with the Ninth Michigan Cavalry, enlisting for three years and serving until the close of hostilities, during which time he participated in a number of important engagements, which aided in turning the tide of victory for the Union. He afterward became a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and he gave his political allegiance to the Republican party. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Isabelle Kelso, was born in Livingston county, New York, and is now sixty-nine years of age. The following is an interesting account of her family history: In the days when the Scotch were so bitterly persecuted on account of their religious views, a Scottish family by the name of Kelso, in order to preserve their lives, fled to Ireland. In the haste they became separated from their only son, Hugh, who was in charge of his nurse. When they reached a place of safety they waited for tidings of the missing ones, but none came, and they supposed the child and his nurse to have been murdered by their persecutors. In a short time another son was born, and they, mourning for

the first, named this one Hugh. After many years the faithful nurse, who had not been put to death after all, discovered the whereabouts of the family and came to them, bringing the older son Hugh, whom she had hid and saved. Two sons of the same name being unusual, they decided to call the older Scotch Hugh and the younger Irish Hugh, from the place of their birth. In the course of time Irish Hugh with his wife came to America to find a home in the new country. To them were born five sons and one daughter. Mrs. Isabelle Kelso De Pue, wife of Jerry De Pue, was a granddaughter of Irish Hugh, the daughter of his son, John Kelso. She holds membership in the Presbyterian church. She belonged to a family of eight children, of whom she was the eldest, the others being: Henry, now deceased; Marjorie, the deceased wife of Jacob Link; Robert K., living in California township; Mary, the wife of Alfred Dodd, a resident of Dakota; John K., a resident of Noble township; Thomas, also living in Noble; and Sarah, the wife of Byron Knight, of Noble; and Mrs. De Pue. Mr. De Pue had been one of six children: Sarah Jane, the wife of William Case, of Kinderhook, this state; Susan, the deceased wife of William Hughes; Catherine, the deceased wife of Andrew Crater; Levi, deceased; one who died unnamed; and Joseph, who is living in Ovid township. The parents of Mrs. Purdy had four children: Augustus, who was born in 1858, and is engaged in the manufacture of cigar boxes in Lansing, Michigan; Agnes A.; Sarah, the wife of Henry Straight, who is serving as county clerk of Branch county, Michigan, and makes his home in Coldwater; and Herbert, who died, aged fourteen months.

Mr. Purdy is a stanch advocate of the Republican party and is regarded as one of the active workers in its local ranks, his labors proving effective and beneficial. He served as township treasurer from 1892 until 1894, and in the spring of 1905 was elected supervisor of Algansee township. His wife is a member of the Presbyterian church. They are well-known residents of this community, enjoying in large measure the good will and friendship of those with whom they come in contact. In his farming relations he is practical and at the same time conducts his work along lines of modern progress, so that he has a well developed property.

CHARLES W. OWEN.

Charles Wesley Owen, editor and proprietor of the Quincy (Michigan) Herald, was born in Monroe county, Michigan, July 24, 1846. His father, Armenius Owen, was a native of Saratoga county, New York, born in 1803, and was of Welch extraction. He married Miss Almyra Lynch, who was of Irish lineage, and was a native of Massachusetts. They settled on a new farm in Monroe county, Michigan, in 1832, and were among the hardy pioneers of that county. They reared a large family, six sons and five daughters being born to them, all of whom grew to manhood and womanhood and all of whom are still living, with the exception of two sons, the subject of this sketch being the youngest but two of this large family. In 1848 the family moved to a farm one mile east of Manchester, Washtenaw county, Michigan, where Charles' boyhood days were spent, attending the school at East Man-

chester during the winter months and the balance of the year working on the farm, being able to gain the mere rudiments of an education. Charles' father was an enthusiastic Republican from the first organization of that party under the oaks at Jackson, voting for Fremont, the first presidential candidate of that party, in 1856, and was an enthusiastic supporter of Lincoln four years later, and he, with his older sons, carried torches in that memorable "Wide-Awake" campaign.

When the war broke out in 1861 three of Charles' older brothers were among the first to respond to their country's call for volunteers, George W. enlisting in the Fourth Michigan Infantry, James and Joseph in the Thirty-third Illinois Infantry, and later, in the fall of 1862, on the organization of the Eighteenth Michigan Infantry, William joined that regiment, in which he served until his death, from chronic diarrhoea, in the fall of 1864. May 8, 1862, Charles' mother died after a brief illness, and his father died in October, 1879, at the age of seventy-six years. His parents and brother William are sleeping in the village cemetery at Manchester.

In September, 1862, Charles commenced to learn the printers' trade in the Commercial office at Monroe, Michigan, under the late M. D. Hamilton, during the progress of the great Civil war. Being very patriotic, it was a matter of great regret to him that he was not old enough to enter the service early in the war, in which he took a lively interest. His first attempt to get into the service was in October, 1863, when he enlisted in the Ninth Michigan Cavalry, but being under age and small in stature he was obliged to give this up, as his father refused to give his consent. February 14, 1864, he made another unsuccessful attempt to get into the army by enlisting in the Eighteenth Michigan Infantry, when he with other recruits were taken to Detroit (his first visit to that city) for examination, but was rejected by the examining surgeon, being under age and too small. Being of a persevering nature and determined to get into the service in some capacity, in the latter part of March, 1864, he again went to Detroit and enlisted as drummer boy in the First Michigan Infantry, the re-enlisted men of that regiment then being home on veteran furlough, with headquarters in Detroit, and Charles made application to the commander of that regiment, Colonel William A. Throop, and finally succeeded in getting into that regiment, after making a trip home to get his father's consent, promising to give him all his bounty and pay if he would give his consent, which he did with reluctance. The day Charles donned the union blue is counted by him as one of the happiest of his life. After two weeks in barracks at Jackson, Charles and other recruits were sent to the front, receiving their equipment at Camp Distribution at Alexandria, and reached the regimental camp at Beverly Ford, Virgina, about the middle of April, and on the arrival of the re-enlisted men, a day or two later, Charles was assigned to Company G, commanded by Captain C. W. Carrick, in which he had the honor of carrying a musket until the regiment was mustered out in July, 1865. May 1st the regiment broke camp and entered on the most severe campaign of the war. The First was in the Third brigade, First Division of the Fifth Corps, Army of the Potomac, commanded respectively by Generals Bartlet, Griffin, Warren and

Mead, with General Grant as commander-in-chief. The First Michigan was one of the regiments that opened the fight May 5th in the Wilderness, where, in the three days' fight, the regiment lost heavily in killed, wounded and prisoners. The night of May 7th the First marched all night to Spottsylvania, where another hard fight took place Sunday morning, May 8th, three unsuccessful charges being made to drive the enemy from an elevated position behind breastworks, the regiment sustaining another heavy loss in killed, wounded and prisoners, the subject of this sketch being among the latter. Monday, May 9, he with about four hundred other prisoners were marched all day under rebel guard to Beaver Dam Station, on the Virginia Central Railroad, where they were to be put aboard cars and sent to Richmond. Just before reaching the station the prisoners were overjoyed by the sudden appearance of Sheridan's Cavalry force, who had just started out on the famous Richmond raid, and were again with their friends. The recaptured men remained with the Cavalry force on the raid, which was the most strenuous and exciting week of their lives, with nothing to eat except what they could beg from the Cavalrymen, and they were very glad when they again entered the union lines the following Saturday, May 14th, at Malvern Hill, on the James river. Sunday morning, the 15th, the liberated prisoners were put aboard a boat and taken to Alexandria, and after a few days' rest were given new equipment and sent back to the front, going by boat to Belle Plain Landing, from which place they acted as guard for a supply train, via Fredericksburg, reaching the army while they lay at North Anna river, May 26th, where Charles rejoined his regiment. The following night the army started on another flanking movement toward Richmond, participating in several hard fights in the vicinity of the Chickahominy river, and on June 16th crossed the James river and marched to Petersburg, where the army saw hard service, fighting and building fortifications during the long siege of that place, which ended in the spring of 1865, when the Fifth Corps, with Sheridan's Cavalry, started on the flank movement which ended with the surrender of Lee's army at Appomattox and the collapse of the rebellion, after four years of desperate fighting.

The First Michigan Infantry was one of the regiments detailed to receive the arms and battle flags of General Lee's army after the surrender at Appomattox. Charles' brother George also served with the First Michigan from July, 1864, until the close of the war, and was also with the regiment at Appomattox. The veterans of the Fourth Michigan, in which George served three years, were consolidated with the First Michigan when the Fourth was disbanded about the first of July, 1864, at the expiration of their three years' service (the re-enlisted men only being transferred to the First), while the regiment lay in the trenches at Petersburg. George is also a practical printer and for a number of years past has conducted a large job printing office at Norfolk, Virginia.

After Lee's surrender the army marched back through Petersburg and Richmond and then to Washington, where they went into camp until after the Grand Review, May 23, when the disbandment began. The First Michigan was detached from the army after returning to Petersburg, being detailed

to guard the railroad between Burkville Junction and City Point, with headquarters at the latter place, where they remained until the 16th of May, 1865, when they went to Alexandria by transport and went into camp on Arlington Heights, near Washington, participating in the Grand Review of the Army of the Potomac, May 23d. June 16th the regiment was put aboard of some flat cars (coal cars) and went to Parkersburg on the Baltimore & Ohio railway, and thence to Louisville, Kentucky, by boat down the Ohio river, reaching that city the morning of the 21st. Later in the day the regiment went into camp across the river at Jeffersonville, Indiana, where they were mustered out July 9th, and started for home the 10th, reaching Jackson, Michigan, on the 12th, where a fine banquet awaited them, prepared by the good people of that city. On July 21st the regiment was paid off and disbanded.

Charles went to school the following fall and winter, and in the spring of 1866 resumed work in the Commercial office at Monroe, where he remained one year, completing his apprenticeship, and then started out as a "jour" printer, working on daily papers at Toledo, Sandusky and Detroit until the spring of 1874, when he moved to Lansing, Michigan, where he was employed for nine years in the State Printing Office, during the administration of the late W. S. George as state printer. In the spring of 1883 Mr. Owen purchased the Grass Lake, Michigan, News (his first newspaper venture), which he published until July, 1885, when he sold that paper and bought the Bronson, Michigan, Journal. In October, 1889, he sold the Journal and bought a half interest in the Coldwater Courier, in partnership with Mr. C. H. Newell, which relation continued until October, 1894, when he sold his interest in the Courier to Mr. Newell and bought the Quincy Herald of the late J. C. Joiner, which Mr. Owen has since conducted with marked ability and success, the Herald being one of the most reliable and popular country weeklies in Southern Michigan.

On the 22d of July, 1869, Mr. Owen was united in marriage at the home of the bride in Detroit, to Miss Belle J. Allen, who was born at Cleveland, Ohio, October 30, 1847, and is a daughter of J. J. and Harriet (Thompson) Allen. The mother died in Detroit in April, 1883, and the father died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Owen, at Coldwater, Michigan, in October, 1893, with whom he spent the latter years of his life. He was born in county Longford, Ireland, in 1809, and when a young man, immediately after being married, came to the United States, first settling in New York city. He afterwards moved to Cleveland, Ohio, and in 1868 moved to Detroit. Mr. and Mrs. Owen began their domestic life in Toledo, Ohio, where Mr. Owen was employed on the Toledo Daily Blade for a number of years. Their married life has been very happy, and they have been blessed with four children: Gertrude May, born in Toledo, Ohio, August 18, 1870; Wilber Allen, born in Detroit, Michigan, June 30, 1873; Charles Wesley, Jr., born in Lansing, Michigan, June 29, 1877, and Isla Belle, born at Bronson, Michigan, September 17, 1889. Wilber and Charles are both graduates of the Columbia Law School of Washington, D. C., where they took the night course while in the government employ, Wilber in the Government Printing

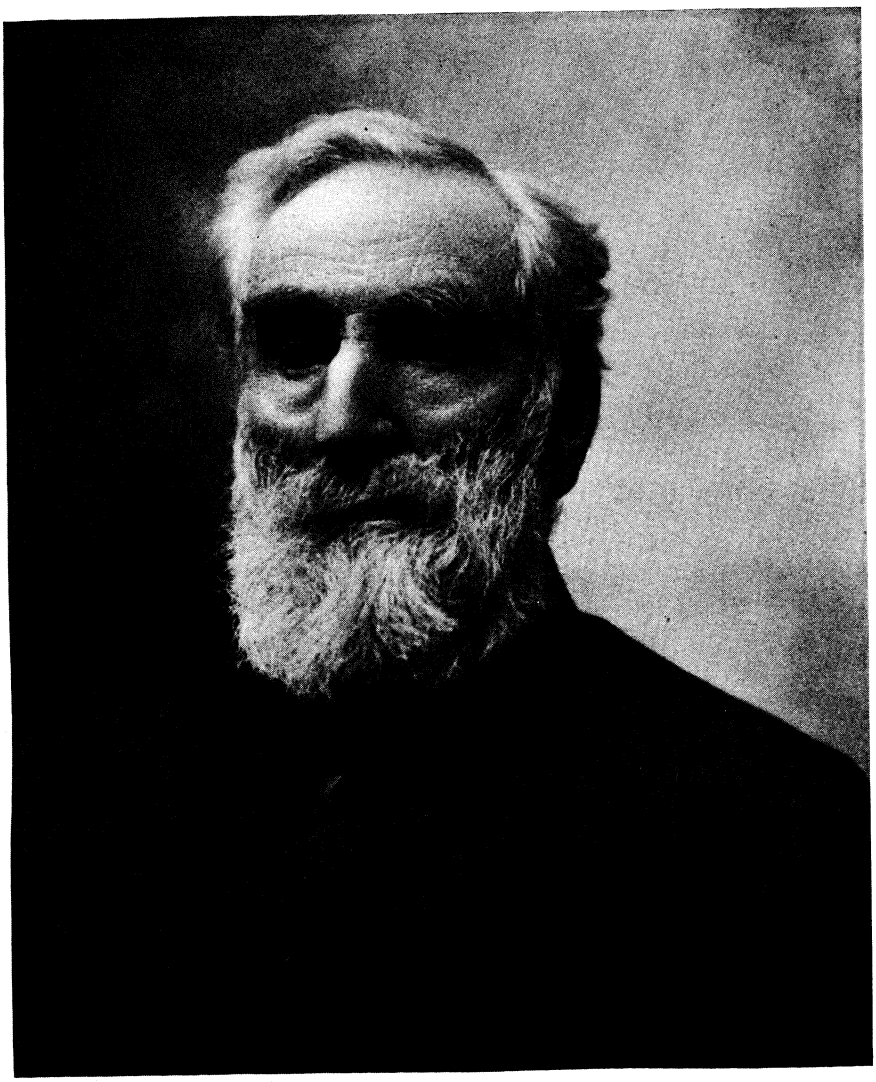
Office, and Charles in the War Department during the Spanish-American war. Wilber and Charles have been engaged in the practice of law at Toledo, Ohio, for a number of years, in which they have met with marked success, making a specialty of patent law practice, under the firm name of Owen & Owen. Both are married, and a fine baby girl came to the home of Charles and wife July 20, 1905. Gertrude is a successful milliner, and Isla Belle is still at home, pursuing her studies in the Quincy High School at the time of the compilation of this history, January, 1906.

Mr. Owen has always been a staunch Republican. Both he and his wife are members of the Quincy Presbyterian church, and Mr. Owen is also a member of Mt. Vernon Lodge No. 166, F. & A. M., Maccabee Tent No. 536, Capital Council No. 80, Royal Arcanum, and C. O. Loomis Post No. 2, Grand Army of the Republic.

PASCHAL P. MORRISON.

Paschal P. Morrison, devoting his time and energies to general agricultural pursuits in Girard township, was born in Penfield, Monroe county, New York, October 20, 1835. His father, Jonathan Morrison, was a native of Seneca county, New York, and was a son of Samuel Marrison, who spent his entire life in the Empire state. The great-grandfather of our subject was a soldier of the Revolution, who valiantly fought for independence of the colonies. Reared in the Empire state, Jonathan Morrison, after attaining his majority, was united in marriage to Miss Charlotte Burlingame, whose birth occurred in Bloomfield, Ontario county, New York. They began their domestic life in the Empire state, and before leaving the east seven children were born unto them, but one of the number died in infancy. With the surviving six children they came to Michigan in 1845 and for a few months resided in Washtenaw county, after which they removed to Girard township, Branch county, taking up their abode on section thirty-three. The father there purchased eighty acres of land, which is now in possession of his son Paschal, and throughout the remainder of an active business career devoted his attention to farming. He became one of the representative and prosperous farmers of the locality and died on the old homestead November 24, 1885, at the age of seventy-seven years, while his wife passed away in 1893, at the age of eighty years. The six children who came with them to Michigan were: Nancy, now Mrs. Hames, who is living in Hodunk, Michigan; Mrs. Victoria Kingston, who resided in Union township, Branch county; Russell Morrison, who died in Batavia, Michigan, in 1887; Mrs. Marcia Wilcox, a resident of Coldwater; Mrs. Mary Ann Reed, also living in Coldwater; and Paschal P., of this review. Following the arrival of the parents in Michigan two other children were born, but both died in infancy.

Paschal P. Morrison came to Michigan with his parents when a lad of ten years and has since resided in Girard township, with the exception of the brief period spent with the family in Washtenaw county. He early became familiar with the labors of the farm and assisted in the development



D. P. Leonard

of the fields and the care of the stock. After his father's death he cared for his mother, and not until she, too, was called from this life did he feel at liberty to marry. He then wedded Miss Augusta Adolph in October, 1895. She, too, lived in Girard township, and she is a native of Germany, born August 28, 1849. Her father was Phillip Adolph, and her mother bore the maiden name of Anna Greuner. Both were natives of Germany, where they were married and where six children were born unto them, as follows: Phillip, who is now a resident of Girard; Lena, who died in Germany in infancy; Anna, who became Mrs. Flandemeyer, and died in Coldwater, Michigan, in 1861; Willard, who is living in Union township, this county; Mrs. Lena Morrison, who resides in Batavia; and Mrs. Augusta Morrison, the wife of our subject. The father's death occurred in Germany in 1853, and a few years later Mrs. Adolph came with her children to America, locating in Girard township, Branch county, Michigan, where her parents, Anthon and Vancel Greuner, had previously taken up their abode. Here Mrs. Adolph made for herself a good home and reared her family, doing a mother's full duty toward the sons and daughters who were left to her care. She died here March 17, 1891. Mrs. Morrison had cared for her in her declining years, and she, too, resolved not to marry while her mother lived, but in March, 1891, she gave her hand in marriage to Paschal P. Morrison, and their marriage has been a particularly happy one. They have a comfortable home situated in the midst of an eighty-acre farm on section thirty-three, Girard township, and bordering the banks of the beautiful Morrison Lake, which was named in honor of the family. This lake has led to the establishment of a favorite summer resort, with numerous cottages, which are occupied throughout the summer months. Both Mr. and Mrs. Morrison have spent the greater part of their lives in this locality and are highly esteemed. The friendship of many friends is freely accorded them, and it is with pleasure that we present this record to our readers.

D. P. LEONARD.

For many years D. P. Leonard has traveled life's journey, and now, in the evening of a long, useful and honorable career, is enjoying a well earned rest, relieved of the burdens and responsibilities of business life, for through many decades he was laying by the competence which now supplies him with all the necessities and many of the luxuries of life. Depending upon his own resources, he has risen from comparative obscurity to a place of prominence in the commercial world.

Mr. Leonard was born in the village of Smyrna, Chenango county, New York, February 9, 1822. His father, Joseph B. Leonard, was a native of the eastern part of New York, his birth having occurred in Saratoga. He was of Welsh lineage, his ancestors having come from Wales at an early day and settled in Tompkins, Massachusetts, where they established the first foundry in the United States. Joseph B. Leonard was a shoemaker by trade and he lived to the advanced age of eighty-five years. His wife, whose maiden name was Aseneth Buck, was a native of Massachusetts and died in her sixty-

fourth year. They were the parents of four children, of whom one died in infancy, while the three sons grew to manhood. Joseph C. and James were both prominent merchants of Union City at one time, but are now deceased.

D. P. Leonard is the youngest of the brothers and the only one now living. He was reared in the place of his nativity and acquired his education in a select school there, but his privileges were somewhat limited, for at the age of twelve years he started out in life on his own account. He began working as a farm hand, being bound out for four years, and according to the terms of the contract he was to be given his board and clothing and allowed the privilege of attending school for three months in the winter. When sixteen years of age he began teaching in the district schools, following that profession through the winter seasons, while in the summer months he continued at farm labor. He afterward spent one year in Pennsylvania in working at the carpenter's trade, and then returned to Chenango county, New York. There he entered into partnership with his father in the shoemaking business, in which he continued for two years, after which they purchased a farm together in New York. Two years later he bought his father's interest in the place and remained upon the home farm for eleven years, placing it under a high state of cultivation and having a number of substantial improvements made.

On the 13th of April, 1848, Mr. Leonard was united in marriage to Miss Mary A. Gates, a daughter of Warren W. and Mary (Wording) Gates. Mrs. Leonard was born in Rhode Island and was a young child when her parents removed to the Empire state. Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Leonard resided in New York for about eight years, and in 1856 came to Michigan, settling upon a farm in Burlington township, Calhoun county, about a mile and a half from Union City. This farm he still owns. It was largely improved by him and he erected substantial buildings there, made good fences, carefully tilled his fields and continued the farm work along practical lines until his labors were crowned with very gratifying success. He resided upon that place until 1892, but in 1889 he had purchased a farm east of Union City, in Union township, and took up his abode in the village, working the farm until about 1900, when he sold that property. He has now a ginsing plant on his lot in Union City. The old homestead property comprises about three hundred acres of rich land, of which fifty acres is timber, while the greater part of the remainder is cultivable and was transformed into productive fields by Mr. Leonard. He also owns real estate in Union City, including two brick stores on Main street.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Leonard have been born three children: Dr. Mary A. is the wife of Thomas E. Murphy, editor of a paper at Mercedes, California. She graduated in the Kalamazoo Female Seminary in the class of 1873; also from the Medical College, in Northwestern University of Chicago in the class of 1894, and she took up her practice at Portland, Oregon, thence removing to California. Charles J. married Della E. Winans and is now operating the old farm in Calhoun county. He was a student at the Agricultural College at Lansing, Michigan, and was a teacher in both Calhoun and Branch counties. Hattie C. is at home. Besides attending the

High School at Union City she was a student at the Ladies' College at Painesville, Ohio. In 1888 Mr. Leonard was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died on the 20th of January of that year.

In his political views Mr. Leonard is a Democrat. He served as supervisor of Burlington township for one term and has always been interested in the welfare and growth of his party. As a pioneer settler he has contributed in substantial measure to the improvement of the county and to the upbuilding of Union City. He gave active encouragement to the cement factory here, being largely instrumental in securing its establishment. He has also done much toward promoting other interests of the town which have contributed in large measure to the general prosperity. Mr. Leonard and his wife and daughter, Miss Hattie, all traveled quite extensively, making three trips to California, two to Florida, and also visiting other sections of the country. He has thus enjoyed the competence which has come to him through his well directed labors. His has been a successful career, for he started out in life when only twelve years of age, having nothing to depend on but his own labors. His prosperity has come as the result of hard work and honorable dealing. His progress has not been continuous, for at times he has met difficulties and obstacles. On one occasion his house was destroyed by fire, and another time his barn was burned, but he did not allow those losses to discourage him, but replaced the buildings with modern structures, and now has one of the best improved farms of the county. There is no larger barn in this section of the state, for the structure is one hundred and thirty by one hundred and twenty feet. His life has been honorable, his actions manly and sincere, and his name is a synonym for integrity and straightforward dealing wherever he is known.

REV. FREDERICK M. CODDINGTON.

Rev. Frederick M. Coddington, pastor of the Presbyterian church in Quincy, was born in Sherwood township, Branch county, in 1853. The family is of English lineage and was founded in America by three brothers who came from England in the early part of the seventeenth century, settling in that section of the country which was called in honor of the mother country, New England. All of the Coddingtons in the United States are perhaps descended from these three brothers, and the number bearing the name is now a large one.

Chester T. Coddington, father of our subject, was born in Tompkins county, New York, in 1818, and died in November, 1884. He was a farmer by occupation, as was his father, Robert Coddington, while the latter was likewise an elder of the Presbyterian church. Chester Coddington left the state of New York in the fall of 1839 and settled in Sherwood township, where he took possession of a third of the land which his father had previously entered from the government. There he lived and prospered, and eventually died upon another farm that, during his latter years, became a part of the site of Sherwood village. When he came to Michigan he was a member of the Presbyterian church, but as there was no congregation of

that denomination at that time, he united with the Congregational church of Union City about 1846, and died while identified therewith. He was one of a family of ten children, eight sons and two daughters, all of whom reached mature years, namely: John M., who studied for the ministry; Reuben P., who came to Michigan two years after Chester's arrival, and was a prosperous farmer, a very influential man in the county, and became the owner of one-third of the land which his father had originally possessed in Sherwood township; Martin Luther, who came some years after Reuben's arrival, and took the remaining third of the land, prospering as a farmer up to the time of his death, which occurred when he was fifty years of age; James, Stephen, Eliza, Ophelia, Theron and Theodore, all now deceased.

Chester Coddington was a life-long supporter of the Whig party until its dissolution, when he joined the ranks of the Republican party. His brothers who came to Michigan were also Republicans, while those remaining in the east gave their allegiance to the Democratic party. Chester Coddington served as a justice of the peace, and was influential in community affairs. His life was upright and honorable, and all who knew him esteemed him for his genuine worth. He married Prudence Hess, who was born in the state of New York in 1815 and died in 1866. She was a daughter of Frederick and Jerusha Hess, who was of German descent. She held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, and her husband gave the site from off his farm on which the Methodist church of the locality was built. This was the first church edifice erected in the township of Sherwood. In the family of this worthy couple were three children: James D., who died in childhood; Frederick M.; and Hiram D., a farmer of Sherwood township. Chester Coddington had been previously married, his first wife having been Elizabeth Lee, a member of a pioneer family of Branch county. She was an early school teacher and understood the Indian language. The first wife died about 1848. Unto this marriage were born five children, of whom one died in infancy, while the others were: Elisabeth Ophelia, who at the age of twelve years became a member of the family of her paternal grandmother, filling the part of a daughter, sister and home-keeper, until all that family have passed away—herself still remaining as the sole representative of a once large and merry family; Charles D., a farmer residing in Mason county, who is a pensioner of the Civil war and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic; Orpha G.; and Margaret Ely. The second wife of Chester Coddington was the mother of our subject. His third wife was Salena Leatherberry, a daughter of Abel Leatherberry, and a native of Ohio. She is now living in Sherwood at the age of seventy-three years.

Mr. Coddington was reared upon the home farm, attended the district schools and was a student in Jonesville Union School and Albion College. At the age of twenty-six years he began teaching and was superintendent of the schools of Sherwood from 1879 until 1881. In the school year of 1881-2 he was principal of the high school at New Troy, and was superintendent of schools at Three Oaks in 1883-4. In the meantime he had been preparing for the ministry, and in March, 1885, was ordained a minister of the Congregational church at Athens by a regularly constituted council of the min-

istry of that church. He was then acting pastor of a charge at Athens, and later he became pastor of the church at Pinckney, where he remained for two years. He afterward spent three years in Leslie, Michigan, and more than five years in Litchfield. He continued his labors for four years in Laingsburg, and in Otsego for nearly three years, and in April, 1902, he came to Quincy, since which time he has been pastor of the Presbyterian church here.

Rev. Coddington was married in August, 1882, to Miss Esther L. Evans, who was born in Quincy township in 1859, and was a daughter of Joseph and Theodosia Evans. Her father came to Michigan in 1852, settling in Quincy township, Branch county. He was of Scotch and French lineage and was a skilled carriage maker. In his family were two children, the son being Frank L. Evans, superintendent of the public schools of Frankfort, Michigan, and also editor of the Benzie County Patriot, published at Frankfort. Mrs. Coddington was a teacher in the schools at Sherwood when her husband became superintendent there. She has an adopted daughter, Amy J. North, who became a member of their home when sixteen years of age, and was married in February, 1896, to William J. McIlwain, a farmer of Calhoun county, Michigan.

Mr. Coddington is the owner of a farm of ninety acres in Quincy township, and this brings him a good return, which makes an excellent supplement to his salary received from the church. Where national questions are involved, he is a Republican, but at local elections votes for candidates of the Prohibition party. He has served as school examiner and is always interested in educational advancement. Fraternally he is a Mason. For twenty-one years, however, he has given his almost undivided attention to the work of the ministry, and his labors have been crowned with a high measure of success. He is a speaker of force, logical in argument and strong in his presentation of his cause. He is likewise a forcible and entertaining writer and has produced some publications, including a work entitled "As They Did It," or "The First Church of Warden," published by Jennings & Pye of Cincinnati; while the same publishers are soon to read the manuscript of another instructive and entertaining religious novel written by him, entitled "The Mortgage on the Old Farm," with the view of putting it in book form. (The manuscript of this book has not yet been in the hands of any publisher.) He is a man who enjoys the highest respect of all, regardless of denominational preference, and his work has been a potent power for good wherever he has labored.

MRS. GEORGE E. LORING.

Mrs. George E. Loring, well known in Branch county, is living upon a farm on section thirteen, Girard township, where she owns eighty acres of valuable land. Her residence is an attractive modern frame house built in pleasing style of architecture and standing in the midst of a well-kept lawn. Everything about the place is neat and thrifty in appearance, giving indication of the careful supervision of Mrs. Loring. In her maidenhood Mrs. Loring bore the name of Mary Calkins, and her birth occurred in Schenectady county,

New York, February 19, 1840. Her father, Orville Calkins, was a native of Glenville, Vermont, where the days of his boyhood and youth were passed, but soon after he attained his majority he removed to the Empire state, and was there married in Cambridge, Saratoga county, to Miss Janet Ferguson. They reared their family of children there, and Mrs. Calkins died in that locality. Mr. Calkins subsequently came to Michigan in 1852 and established his home in the township of Batavia, Branch county, where he resided for a few years, after which he removed to a farm in Girard township. Later he located in the village of Tekonsha, where his remaining days were passed. Mr. Calkins was a stone mason by trade and for many years followed that pursuit, giving his attention to that business while in Tekonsha. His life was upright and honorable, and in all of his business dealings he was straightforward and reliable, so that he became known in the community as a man of genuine worth, worthy the high regard of all. He died in Tekonsha in 1893 in the eighty-seventh year of his age.

In the family of Orville and Janet (Ferguson) Calkins were a son and four daughters, who reached manhood and womanhood: Harrison, whose death occurred in the Empire state; Mrs. Sarah Brown, who died in Butler; Mrs. Nancy Eldred, whose death occurred in Tekonsha in 1895; Mrs. Catherine Sawyer, who is living in Butler, Branch county, Michigan; and Mrs. Loring.

In her father's home Mary Calkins spent her girlhood days and was trained to the duties of the household, while in the public schools she acquired her education. On the 8th of October, 1859, she gave her hand in marriage to George E. Loring, who was a native of Medina county, Ohio, where he was born February 12, 1834, his parents being John and Mary (Merritt) Loring, both of whom were natives of the state of New York. After living in Ohio for a number of years they came to Michigan, where they reared their family, casting in their lot with the pioneer settlers of Branch county. They found a district which was little improved and with strong purpose and laudable determination Mr. Loring began the work of making a home on the frontier. He met the difficulties that usually confront the pioneer, but he diligently pursued his work, and in the course of time developed an excellent farm property on section twelve, Girard township, where he and his wife spent their remaining days.

George E. Loring, reared to the occupation of farming, followed that pursuit throughout the greater part of his life, but also had other business interests. As he prospered in his undertakings he added to his landed possessions until he had acquired several hundred acres in this immediate vicinity. He was one of the first residents of this section to make a specialty of fruit raising, in which he was very successful, particularly in the line of apple growing, his orchards at one time being considered the finest and most attractive in the county. In all of his work he was progressive and kept in touch with modern ideas concerning agricultural development.

Mr. and Mrs. Loring became the parents of six children: Nettie, born August 28, 1867, died in infancy. John A., born January 16, 1861, died October 19, 1880, at the age of nineteen years. Sanford, who was born

January 7, 1867, and is a machinist residing in Coldwater, was married August 15, 1888, to Flora Rogers, by whom he has one son and three daughters. Hattie, born November 26, 1864, was married August 24, 1885, to Edwin Walker, who is engaged in blacksmithing at Hodunk, Michigan, and they have three sons and two daughters. Lettie, born January 7, 1872, is the wife of J. Shedd, who holds a position in one of the large beet sugar factories at Bay City, Michigan, where they are living with their son and daughter. Marian, born December 7, 1877, is the wife of William Ostrom, their home being in Branch county, Michigan.

In his political views Mr. Loring was a stalwart Republican, who also kept well informed on the questions and issues of the day, although he never sought or desired office. He was interested in all that goes to uplift and benefit mankind and the cause of education found in him a warm and helpful friend, who as a school officer upon several different occasions did effective and valuable service for the system of public instruction in his home locality. He passed away December 25, 1893, and thus closed a useful, honorable and upright life. He was just and fair in all his dealings and was respected by his neighbors and fellow-townsmen, while in his home he was greatly beloved, for his devotion to his family was largely ideal. Mrs. Mary Loring still survives her husband and resides upon the old homestead, and although at the time of his death she had but little experience in business life she took up the work that confronted her with strong and resolute courage and not only carefully reared and educated her children, but also conducts the affairs of her farm, where she spends the greater part of her time, paying, however, frequent visits to her children, all of whom are established in comfortable homes. She belongs to the Free Will Baptist church, and her many good qualities of heart and mind have endeared her to a large circle of friends.

ROBERT CHERDAVOINE.

Robert Cherdavoine, who at one time was actively engaged in farming, but is now practically living retired on his farm in Girard township, was born in Tompkins county, New York, December 20, 1827. He is descended from French ancestry, his paternal grandfather having come from France, while his father, John Cherdavoine, was born in New Jersey. He was one of a family of four sons, and when a young man removed from New Jersey to the state of New York, where he was married to Miss Mary Longcoy, a native of the Empire state. They became the parents of two children, Robert and Abram, but the latter was killed in New York in 1854 when twenty-six years of age. The mother died in 1829, and the father afterward married Elizabeth Whalen, by whom he had three children: Enoch, now a resident of Union township, Branch county; Walter, who served as a soldier in the Civil war and died soon afterward; and Mrs. Mary Bickhorn, who died in New York in 1893. The death of the father occurred at the home of his son Robert in Girard township in 1888 when he had reached the advanced age of ninety-three years.

Robert Cherdavoine was a little lad of six years when his father removed from Tompkins to Chemung county, New York, and there he remained until coming to Michigan. He was married in Chemung county to Miss Maria Brooks, a native of that locality, born October 15, 1833. Her father was Jesse Brooks, while her mother bore the maiden name of Marinda Fox. Both were natives of the Empire state and were among the pioneer settlers of Branch county, Michigan, coming to Coldwater when their daughter Maria was less than two years of age, arriving here in 1835. Further mention is made of the Brooks family on another page of this work. For ten years after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Cherdavoine remained in New York, and then came to Michigan, settling in Branch county. This was in the year 1864, and Mr. Cherdavoine purchased fifty acres of land in Coldwater township, where he carried on general farming for seventeen years. In 1881 he removed to Girard township and purchased one hundred and sixteen acres of land on sections seventeen and eighteen, which he still owns. He has an excellent farm here, improved with good buildings, and everything about the place is attractive in its appearance, showing the careful supervision of the owner. Mr. Cherdavoine, however, now leaves the active operation of the farm to his son Archie, with whom he lives.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Cherdavoine were born five children: Archie, who resides upon the old homestead and who married Lois Mack, by whom he has two children; Mrs. Sarah Mack, who resides in Battle Creek, Michigan; a daughter, who died in infancy; Johnnie, who died at the age of three years; and Matthew, who died in 1890 at the age of twenty years. In 1895 Mr. Cherdavoine was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died on the 14th day of July of that year. She was for a long period a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and was a true Christian woman, whose many excellencies of character endeared her to those with whom she came in contact, so that her loss was deeply felt by many friends as well as her immediate family.

Mr. Cherdavoine has been a life-long Republican and has ever kept well-informed on the questions and issues of the day. For forty years he has served as a school officer and the cause of education has ever found in him a warm and stalwart friend. His interest in public affairs is deep and sincere and has resulted in active and helpful effort for the general good.

HENRY OLNEY.

Prominent among the early settlers of the township of Girard were the Olneys, their descendants still being among the prosperous and esteemed residents of this locality. The first of our subject's ancestors to locate here was Darius Olney, his grandfather, a native of Saratoga county, New York, where he was born in 1795. He lived in his native county until 1835, when he came to Calhoun county, Michigan, where he lived for two years, then coming to Branch county and Girard, which was to be the home of himself and his descendants for so many years. In New York state he married Abagail Maxwell, and they were the parents of eight children, four of whom

grew to manhood and womanhood. One of these was William Olney, father of our subject, who was born in Monroe county, New York, April 7, 1820. He was only fifteen years of age when he came with his parents to Michigan, and he remained on the home farm until after he attained his majority. Then for a period of ten years he labored for others, saving his earnings. He was married, in 1853, to Miss Hannah Carter, daughter of Vernon and Anna Carter, both natives of the state of Connecticut, who were also among the early pioneers of this part of Michigan. Five sons and two daughters were born to William Olney and Anna Carter Olney, as follows: Edgar Olney is a resident of Battle Creek, Michigan. Abbie Olney Potter lives in Girard. Henry Olney is our subject. Bart Olney lives in Tekonsha. Byron Olney is a resident of Battle Creek. Will Olney lives in Girard township. Rose Olney Howard lives in the township of Tekonsha. All of the children are married and have homes and families of their own. Hannah Carter Olney, after a life filled with her faithful duties as a loving wife and mother, died at her home in Girard, March 7, 1864. In 1868 Mr. Olney was married to Mary J. Brayton, who is still living and a resident of Girard. Mr. Olney died February 4, 1904. Before his death he became the owner of several hundred acres of fine farming land and he was for many years a man of influence and importance in this part of Branch county. He lived to a good old age and always possessed the high regard and esteem of a very large circle of friends.

Our subject, Henry Olney, was born in Girard, August 29, 1857, and he has passed his entire life in this township. He grew to manhood upon the home farm and early decided to follow agriculture as a life vocation. In this he has been eminently successful. He early became imbued with the idea that every man ought to have a home of his own and accordingly eighteen years ago he purchased a portion of his present farm on section eight, Girard township, not far from the old Olney homestead, and here he now owns one hundred and five acres of land, with excellent buildings and equipment. He was married, October 22, 1890, to Miss Lena May Bush, a native of Fredonia, Calhoun county, where she was born February 2, 1868. Her father was George Bush and her mother was Lucy Upham, both natives of the Empire state, the latter being of the same branch of the Upham family which gave a governor to the state of Wisconsin in later years. Mr. and Mrs. Bush have been residents of Calhoun county for many years, where they are well and favorably known, and where they still live in Fredonia. They are the parents of four daughters and two sons, one of the latter dying in infancy. The remaining children, all of whom are living, are as follows: Elmer Bush is a resident of Grand Rapids. Carrie Bush Simonson lives in Concord, Michigan. Myrtie Bush Holmes lives in Marshall, Michigan. Ina Bush Burland lives in Peoria, Illinois. Lena May Olney is the wife of our subject.

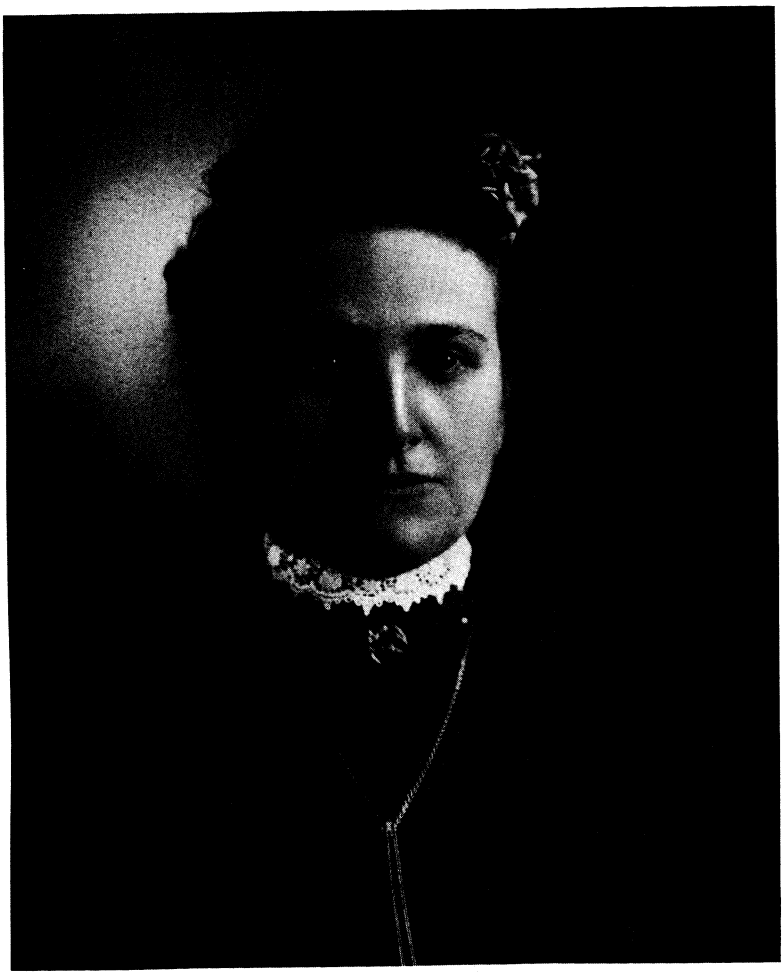
Our subject, Mr. Henry Olney, is a young man who commands the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens and he has served his school district as an officer. He is known as one of the thrifty and successful young farmers of the prosperous township of Girard, and he has already become

possessed of considerable property. He is a worthy descendant of the sterling ancestors who have done so much in the development and growth of this section of the state, and he is justly proud of the honored name he bears.

GEORGE J. STRAY.

George J. Stray, whose honorable and upright life contains many lessons that are worthy of emulation, was born in Java, Wyoming county, New York, on the 16th of August, 1837. His father, George W. Stray, was born in the Empire state on the 19th of October, 1810, and was united in marriage in Wyoming county on the 21st of February, 1833, to Miss Chloe Allen, who was born in Vermont, March 18, 1808. The Strays were originally from France. The Allen family removed from the Green Mountain state to Wyoming county, New York, at an early period in its development, and as before stated the parents of our subject were there married. In the spring of 1843 the father came to Michigan, and after spending a few months in Girard he sent for his family to join him and they arrived in Branch county the same year. The country was almost wholly new and undeveloped and George W. Stray cleared the farm on section ten, Girard township, on which his son, George J. Stray, now resides. He was persistent and energetic in his work and continued as one of the enterprising and valued agriculturists of Girard township up to the time of his death, which occurred July 31, 1883. His widow survived him for several years and passed away on the 21st of October, 1891. In their family were six children, namely: James Erastus, who died in 1848 at the age of fourteen years; Albert, who died in 1850, at the age of ten years; Chloe M., who is living in Girard; George J., of this review; Mrs. Phoebe Fairbanks, who is living in Litchfield, Michigan; and Lucius, who resides in Girard. The family have always been ardent and earnest Methodists, taking a very active and helpful part in religious work, and George W. Stray was for many years known throughout the community as Class Leader Stray because of the position which he held in his church. He was one of its liberal supporters and his efforts in its behalf were far-reaching and effective.

George J. Stray was reared to the occupation of farming and in the public schools acquired his education. Having arrived at years of maturity he was married October 28, 1879, to Emaroy L. Coburn, who was born in Troy, Ohio, July 6, 1850. She lived in Ohio until eight years of age, afterward spent one year in Illinois and then came to Michigan. Her father was Arson H. Coburn, who was born in Homer, New York, February 26, 1816, and was married in Plymouth, Connecticut, on the 23d of May, 1838, to Miss Adeline Warner, whose birth occurred at Plymouth on the 22d of February, 1819. They became early residents of Ohio and Mr. Coburn died at Richland, Michigan, on the 3d of September, 1888, while his wife passed away in Ashtabula county, Ohio, on the 31st of October, 1853. In their family were eight children, of whom two sisters died in infancy, one having been born June 4, 1840, and the other October 28, 1841. The other members of the family were: William H. Coburn, a brother, who was born



Mrs. Sydney E. Yeatter



Sydney E. Yeatter

February 12, 1843, and died at the age of twenty years; Mrs. Sarah Jane Kelley, who is living in Clinton, Wisconsin; Albert W., a resident of Scotts, Michigan; an infant son, who died in infancy; and Mrs. Adeline Hincher, who was born October 10, 1853, and lives in Decatur, Michigan. Mrs. Stray was only three years old at the time of her mother's death, and was adopted by Rev. F. Gage, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, with whom she lived until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Stray began their domestic life on the old home farm on section ten, Girard township, and have here since resided. They have had three children, but the first born died in infancy; Mary, who was born April 21, 1882, died February 12, 1900, at the age of eighteen years; and Phoebe A., who was born September 22, 1887, and is at home.

Mr. Stray is the owner of a farm of sixty acres and his time and attention are given to its further development and improvement. He is also an apiarist, as he has made the study of the bee one of his pursuits, and he has been most successful. At the present time, 1905, he has about ninety stands of bees, and about 1881 he marketed nine hundred dollars' worth of honey. The Italian bee is the one that he cultivates, and he has paid as high as twenty dollars for two queen bees, while in 1903 he had another queen for which he paid eight dollars. He has had as high as thirteen swarms of bees at one time. There is not another man in Branch county who has been as successful as an apiarist as Mr. Stray. He has served as district school officer and the cause of education finds in him a warm friend. He is moreover deeply interested in the cause of religion and the family are members of the Methodist church, in which he has long served as steward and class leader. The Strays have always been a God-fearing people, always loyal to the interests of right, truth and justice and they have ever commanded the high regard of all.

SYDNEY E. YEATTER.

Upon the shoulders of the young men and women falls the robe of responsibility in the affairs of the nation in an agricultural, mercantile and professional sense. Mr. Yeatter of this review is one of the young and representative agriculturists of the township of Matteson, and was born in St. Joseph county, Michigan, January 27, 1867. He is the eldest of three children, all yet living, a son and two daughters, who were born unto Solomon and Martha (Benedict) Yeatter. Effie, the eldest, is the wife of Albion Russell, who resides in Colon, Michigan, and is an agriculturist. They have two children, Ernest and Ethel. Mrs. Russell was educated in Colon schools, was at one time a successful teacher and is a member of the Reform church. Ethel Yeatter is the wife of H. Schaffmaster, a resident of Colon, Michigan, who is also interested in agricultural pursuits. They have one son, Delmont. Solomon Yeatter, the father, was born in Pennsylvania, April 13, 1839, and is yet living, his home being in Colon township. He, too, is an agriculturist. He came to Michigan in 1854, when the state was in its pristine virginity. He received a good, practical education and was a teacher for a number of years. When he was twenty-one years of age he had little or no capital, and

to-day he is one of the substantial farmers of St. Joseph county. He wedded Miss Martha Benedict on the 22d of February, 1866. She was a native of Ohio and at her death the following obituary headed the sketch of the beautiful life she lived:

"Martha A. Benedict was born in Morrow county, Ohio, February 23, 1842, died May 14, 1903, aged sixty years, two months and twenty-one days. She came with her parents when but a young child to Michigan, where she spent her life. She was united in marriage to Solomon Yeatter, February 22, 1866. This union was blessed with three children, all of whom are living. Their wedded life was a happy one, to which her last dying words bear testimony. Her last words spoken to her husband were: 'Solomon, I am going to die. When we lived together we had a happy life, but the last three years it was nothing but sorrow and grief for both of us, but now comes the crown of joy and everlasting life in dear Jesus.' Oh! what a legacy for those left behind. How beautiful are these words, words that will never die. She leaves to mourn her departure a devoted husband, three children, five grandchildren, two brothers and two sisters besides many dear friends. She was a life-long member of the Christian church, early giving her heart to God, being in every way a most earnest member of the St. Paul Reformed church of South Colon. She was not simply a member by name, for her Christianity meant far more than that. Her Christian life and spirit were manifested each day in the Savior whom she loved. No better example could be given other than her beautiful life and character as it was acted out day by day. Her amiable disposition and her wise and good counsels will never die. For the past three years she has been greatly missed, not only in her home, but from the church and community. How many times she was wished back home. God, in His wise providence, saw otherwise and finally called her home. She is now waiting to greet you, one and all, on the other shore. May we so live, so emulate her life and character in Jesus, that by and by we may all meet to part no more. The funeral services were conducted by her pastor, Rev. H. S. Nicholson, who spoke words of comfort to a very large concourse of people from the 126 Ps., 5: 'They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.' Her body was laid to rest in the cemetery by the St. Paul Reformed church to await the glorious resurrection. Peace to her ashes.

"I do not ask, O Lord, that life may be
A pleasant road;
I do not ask that Thou would take from me
Aught of its load.
I do not ask that flowers should always spring
Beneath my feet;
I know too well the poison and the sting
Of things too sweet.

"For one thing only, Lord, I plead;
Lead me aright;

Though strength should falter and heart bleed,
Through peace to light.
I do not ask, O Lord, that Thou shouldst shed
Full radiance here;
Give but a ray of peace, that I may tread
Without a fear.

"I do not seek my cross to understand,
My way to see.
Better in darkness just to feel Thy hand
And follow Thee.
Joy is like restless days, but peace Divine
Like quiet night.
Lead me, O Lord, till perfect day shall shine
Through peace to light."

Solomon Yeatter was formerly a member of the Greenback party, but is now a Republican. He has never cared for office holding, preferring to devote his life to his individual business interests. He belongs to the Dutch Reform church, of which his wife was also an adherent. He has lived a most honorable life and has stood four-square to the world. His life has been such that his children have been taught thereby lessons of honesty and integrity. His wife was one of those kind and affectionate mothers whose admonitions will ever be remembered by her loving children.

Sydney E. Yeatter was reared and educated in St. Joseph county, Michigan. He acquired a good common-school education and also attended the Colon high school, after which he became a student in the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso, Indiana. He won a teacher's certificate and taught for one term in St. Joseph county.

Mr. Yeatter wedded Miss Katie J. Dean, December 24, 1889, and three children, two sons and a daughter, have been born unto them, while two are yet living. Ralph E., the elder, is in the third grade in school. Celia K. is the sunbeam of the home circle. Mrs. Yeatter was born in St. Joseph county, Michigan, December 16, 1871, a daughter of Joseph and Hattie (Livermore) Dean. There were four children in the Dean family, three sons and a daughter, and all are yet living: Harry, who was educated in the Colon schools and is an agriculturist residing in Colon township; Mrs. Yeatter, who is the second in order of birth; Clyde, who is a graduate of the Michigan Agricultural College of the class of 1901, and is now residing in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he is engaged in business as a civil engineer; and Olney J., who was educated in the Michigan Agricultural College, completing the course as an alumnus of 1903, his home being now in Chicago, where he is also a civil engineer.

Joseph Dean, father of this family, was a native of Pennsylvania, born August 23, 1840, and his death occurred June 10, 1897. He followed the occupation of farming, was a soldier of the Civil war, participated actively in many battles, and afterward received an honorable discharge. He was

but a boy when his parents came to St. Joseph county, and almost his entire life was spent in Michigan. In politics he was a stalwart Republican and was a member of Henry M. Liddle Post, G. A. R., at Colon, Michigan. He and his wife were members of the Evangelical church. Mrs. Dean is a native of Michigan and is residing in St. Joseph county at the age of sixty years.

Mrs. Yeatter was reared in St. Joseph county and was educated in the Colon public schools. After obtaining her teacher's certificate she taught one year and she has also received instruction in music. She is a lady of true grace and cordial greeting and her interest centers in her home and family.

It was in the spring of 1889 that Mr. Yeatter purchased sixty acres of good land in Matteson township, and has since added sixty acres more. He and his wife located on this land in February, 1890, and his attention has since been given to general agricultural pursuits and stock-raising. He has made a specialty of Shropshire sheep and Berkshire swine, and his breeding stock is all registered. He built a large barn, thirty-two by seventy-six feet, in 1903, and in 1906 expects to build a large sheep barn, thirty by forty-eight feet. He is also a stockholder in the Colon Creamery, an enterprise which pays well on the investment.

Mr. Yeatter is a Republican, casting his first presidential ballot for Benjamin Harrison. He is a friend of the public schools and was school inspector for four years. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Colon, and they have always contributed their share toward all worthy benefactions. Both Mr. and Mrs. Yeatter are young people, belonging to excellent families, who stand high in the estimation of all, and we are pleased to present this full record of their lives to the readers of this volume. Their beautiful home is known as The Pines.

MR. AND MRS. SETH KING.

Widely known throughout this county, as well as through a goodly portion of southern Michigan, are Mr. and Mrs. Seth King, the latter being more generally known as Mrs. Emily D. King. For many years they have been residents of the township of Butler, where they still retain a fine farm, although during the past year they have lived upon another place on section twelve, Girard township, in order that they might be near their children.

Mr. Seth King was born in Monroe county, New York, April 6, 1832, his father being Henry King, a native of Wheatland, Monroe county, New York, where he was born February 14, 1804. The King family was one of importance in the Empire state, its members being prominent in possession of position and considerable property. The paternal grandfather of our subject at one time owned thousands of acres of land upon which the city of Rochester was afterward built. Henry King's first wife was a Miss Skinner, by whom he had one child, Mary King Cooper, who died while a resident of Calhoun county, Michigan, in 1898. Mrs. King died in New York state and Mr. King was again married, his second choice being Cynthia Rose, a native of Cayuga county, New York, to whom he was united in Monroe county. Nine children were born to them, as follows: Sarah

King, who died in New York when four years old; Elizabeth King Findley, now living in Clarendon, Michigan; Melissa King Farwell, of Quincy, Michigan; Seth King, of Girard; Helen King Lampman, of Quincy, Michigan; Albert King, of Butler; Bertha King Farwell, who died a number of years ago at Hudson, Michigan; Sophronia King Harmon, of Clarendon, Michigan; and Gilbert King, of Girard.

Mr. Henry King and his family came to Michigan in 1847 and located first in Calhoun county, where they lived for several years. In 1854 they came to Branch county, where Mr. King spent the remainder of his days. Although always a farmer, nevertheless he engaged in various other enterprises and with his sons conducted a blast furnace near Quincy, this county, using the so-called bog-ore found in this vicinity. This was one of the very first blast furnaces in the interior of the state and was a flourishing industry in those days, although now superseded by the larger concerns in northern Michigan. After a long life of usefulness, Mr. King died in Butler in 1890, his estimable wife passing away a number of years previously, in 1874.

Mr. Seth King was about sixteen years of age when he came with his parents from New York to Michigan. He was associated in business with his father until he was twenty-three years old, and May 14, 1854, he was married in Homer, Michigan, to Miss Emily D. Card, a native of Lake county, Indiana, where she was born August 30, 1837. Her father was Allen Card, a native of New York state. He was married to Eliza Johnson, who was born near Brockport, New York. The father died in 1840, leaving his widow with one child, Emily D. Soon thereafter the family experienced a most tragic accident whereby Mrs. Card and her three-months-old infant son, Silas, born after the death of his father, were terribly burned, the infant dying from the effect, while the mother was so terribly injured that she remained a helpless invalid for the remainder of her life. She died September 29, 1885, and during these forty odd years of suffering she was tenderly cared for by her daughter, Emily, subject of this sketch. During a portion of this time the mother was also hopelessly insane, and but faintly can it be comprehended what trials the faithful daughter passed through.

After the marriage of Seth King and Emily D. Card they lived in Calhoun county and various portions of Branch county, while for thirteen years they were residents of Iowa. They returned to Michigan and Branch county in 1880, since which time their home has been principally in Butler. Mr. King served in the Civil war, enlisting at Marshall, Michigan, August 16, 1864, in Company A, Twenty-eighth Michigan Infantry, and was with General Thomas in Tennessee, and also sent with his regiment to meet Sherman at Goldsboro, North Carolina. He was discharged in June of 1865. Since the war Mr. King has followed farming as a pursuit. Nine children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. King, as follows: Adell was born in Albion, Michigan, April 12, 1855, and died at the age of four months. Edith King Adams was born in Branch county, June 8, 1856, and now lives in Clarendon. Edwin F. King was born in Butler September 24, 1858, and was married to Minerva Lindsley. They have three children, Edna, Lester

and Ellery. Edna C. King was born in Pulaski, Michigan, July 13, 1860, and died August 28th of the following year, aged thirteen months. Alma King Shafer was born in Butler August 2, 1862, and died May 18, 1897, at the age of thirty-four years. She left two children, Harry and Iva Shafer, who are cared for by their relatives in Girard. Myron L. King was born in Clarendon April 8, 1864, and is married to Luva Lindsay. They have two sons, Ernest and Bertrand King. Mary E. King was born in Iowa, May 13, 1870. Bertrand A. King was born in Iowa, July 30, 1871, and died January 26, 1873. Myrtle King Morrill was born in Iowa May 15, 1874, and now lives in Onsted, Michigan, she having one daughter, Zenda.

Early in the fifties Mr. and Mrs. Seth King began an investigation of modern spiritualism and after a thorough search, coupled with untiring study and careful demonstrations, they became fully convinced that this is the true faith, and they are today most able exponents of this belief. Both are conscientious to a marked degree, thoroughly incapable of deceit, and they possess that charity and broad-mindedness which makes them true lovers of their fellow beings. Mrs. King possesses undoubted mediumistic powers and for the past eighteen years she has been a speaker by inspiration. She is an eloquent, logical and convicing speaker and her services are in great demand throughout southern Michigan, where she has thousands of warm personal friends, as well as admirers. She has been the means of the upbuilding of spiritualism in this section and is the president and pastor of the Spiritualists' Society of Branch county, an organization chartered under the laws of the state of Michigan, and with a constantly growing membership. With her innumerable household duties and the many cares which have filled Mrs. King's life, it seems incredible that she could have found time to fit herself for her present position as a public speaker, especially as the circumstances of her early life precluded the opportunity for even a meager education. In fact, Mrs. King avers that she has made no such preparation, and that she attributes her powers entirely to spiritualistic control. Indeed, it can be accounted for in no other manner. Mrs. King is a lady of intelligence and rare insight and she seems to be imbued with a desire to benefit mankind. Mr. and Mrs. King are held in the highest regard in the section where the greater portion of their lives has been passed, while they have many warm friends in various portions of the state where Mrs. King has so often been called. The King family is a large one in Branch county, where its members are highly respected, and their annual family reunions call together hundreds of the relatives for a day of communion and pleasure.

MRS. MARY MANN WILLIAMS.

Mrs. Mary Mann Williams is a worthy descendant of pioneer families of Girard township and Branch county and is now occupying a comfortable home at Girard Center. She represents a family long prominent in the annals of this section of the state and the work of improvement and upbuilding has been greatly conserved by her ancestors. Her father, Peter I. Mann, was born in Schoharie county, New York, February 27, 1815, and

was a son of Jacob W. Mann, whose birth occurred in the same county on the 13th of February, 1789. The latter was married to Miss Polly Shannon, likewise a native of Schoharie county, born March 1, 1798. Four children had been born to them ere their removal to Michigan in 1836. Their remaining days were passed in Girard township, where the father departed this life February 19, 1846, while his wife passed away October 5, 1886, at a very advanced age. They were indeed worthy pioneer settlers of the locality and during the period of his residence here Jacob W. Mann took an active and helpful part in reclaiming this district for the uses of the white man and introducing here all the methods and conveniences of the older civilization of the east.

Peter I. Mann was reared amid the environments of pioneer life, assisted in the development of the new home farm in the west and eventually became one of the wealthy and influential residents of Girard township. He was married January 13, 1842, to Miss Lavina Grove, whose parents were Peter and Elizabeth (Putnam) Grove. Eight children graced this marriage, of whom three died in infancy, while Nina passed away at the age of sixteen years, about a quarter of a century ago. Those who still survive are: Mark H. and Jacob W. Mann, both well known agriculturists of Girard township; Mrs. Belinda Hurst, who is living in Coldwater; and Mrs. Williams of this review. Mr. and Mrs. Peter I. Mann remained for many years valued and respected residents of Girard township and their loss was the occasion of deep and widespread regret throughout the community. The death of Mr. Mann occurred January 8, 1897, while his wife departed this life October 7, 1890.

Their daughter Mary was born in Girard township, October 21, 1844, and has spent her entire life here. In her girlhood days she attended the public schools and was trained to the duties of the household, and on the 2nd of May, 1869, she gave her hand in marriage to John B. Williams, a native of Livingston county, New York, born March 30, 1835. At an early day he came to Michigan and for many years was one of the esteemed citizens of this locality. During a large part of his residence here he devoted his time and energies to merchandising in Girard, and became known as one of the representative and respected citizens of his community. He occupied an enviable position in the regard of his fellow townsmen, who frequently called him to positions of public trust and responsibility. He served as supervisor, as township clerk, township treasurer and as justice of the peace for many consecutive years and his duties were ever discharged with promptness and fidelity. He was a leading member and active worker in the Methodist Episcopal church of Girard and in this respect as well as in other relations of life found in his wife a faithful helpmate, for their influence was ever given for the betterment of the community. Mr. Williams died June 24, 1905, and his loss was deeply deplored by many who had come to know, respect and honor him for his genuine personal worth.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams were parents of two children, both of whom are living. Glenn Alton Williams, born March 3, 1874, continued his education in Albion College at Albion, Michigan, and in the Northern Indiana

Normal School at Valparaiso. With this exception his entire life has been passed in Girard and he is now accounted one of the prosperous young farmers of the township. He was married November 19, 1903, to Anna Wiggins, who was born in Girard, February 19, 1881, her parents being Frank and Annette (Whitmore) Wiggins. Her father died in October, 1893, but her mother is still living in Girard township. Glenn Williams, prominent in community affairs, served as township treasurer in 1903-4, and fraternally he is affiliated with Coldwater Lodge, I. O. O. F., while he and his wife are members of the Girard Methodist Episcopal church. They have a comfortable home on section fifteen, Girard township and are very popular in the community. Ada Williams, daughter of Mrs. Mary Williams, is at present local manager of the Girard exchange of the Wolverine Telephone Company and makes her home with her mother at their comfortable and hospitable residence in Girard Center. She was wedded to Mr. Thomas J. Hubbard, of La Moille, Illinois. He was born and reared in Bureau county, Illinois, and was one of the firm of Hubbard Brothers, who were engaged for a number of years in a wood working plant. Hubbard Brothers, formerly of La Moille, Illinois, are now located at Abington, Illinois. The names of Mann and Williams have for many years been intimately associated with the history of Girard township and their descendants have just reason to be proud of what has been accomplished by those who have borne the names.

IRA DUFUR.

Ira Dufur, living retired on section nine, Union township, is one of the early settlers of Branch county. He was born in Lower Canada, in the town of Sutton, April 26, 1832. His father, Noah Dufur, was a native of New Hampshire, and was a farmer by occupation. He came to Branch county in 1846, settling in Algansee, where he purchased a tract of land, giving his attention to its cultivation and improvement throughout the remainder of his active business career, but his last years were spent in honorable retirement from labor, and he died in Coldwater in his seventy-eighth year. In early manhood he married Miss Polly Bryant, a native of Lower Canada, who lived to be forty-nine years of age. In their family were eight children, five daughters and three sons, all of whom reached adult age.

Ira Dufur, the eldest of the family, was a youth of fourteen years when he came with his parents to Branch county. He was but two and a half years of age when the father took his family from Canada to Ohio, and there he attended the district schools of Loraine county until he came to Branch county, where he continued his studies in the public schools of Algansee township. When not busy with his text books he worked in the fields and early became familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. As an incident in the life of Mr. Dufur as a pioneer in Branch county it may be mentioned that he ofttimes was sent by his parents after the cows, which browsed in the forests or bushes. One day when he was in quest of them he thought he saw two little fawns and secreted himself in the brush, and as they came up he sprang out and caught them by the hind legs and took them

home. They became domesticated and would follow him about the premises like a dog. This incident is merely given as showing the virginity of Branch county as he first knew it. He remained at home until twenty-three years of age, assisting in clearing the farm, and on December 12, 1855, he was united in marriage to Miss Sophia Lawrence. He then started out in life on his own account. Mrs. Dufur was born in California township, Branch county, her people being pioneer settlers of this portion of the state. After a happy married life of several years she passed away, leaving three children: Lyman E., who is a farmer of Sherwood township; Byron H., who is living in Denver, Colorado; and Eloise, the wife of Morris Cox of Union City. After losing his first wife Mr. Dufur was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Hobbs, and they have two children, but one died in early childhood. The other is Charles, who is a resident of Manistee, Michigan, and an electrician by occupation. Mrs. Dufur was born in Quincy, Branch county, January 5, 1842, and is a daughter of Benjamin P. and Jane (Shay) Hobbs. There were five children, two sons and three daughters, and three are living: Mary, wife of James Lyons, a resident of Eaton county, a farmer; Mrs. Dufur; and Charles M., a resident of Council Bluffs, Iowa, who is engaged in railroading, and married Miss Mattie Williams. Father Hobbs was born in Pennsylvania in 1811, and died in 1902. He was reared in New York, and came to Michigan at an early day. He was a carpenter by trade, but an agriculturist by vocation. He was formerly a Whig and afterwards a Republican. He was a well educated gentleman, having a college education, and was a strong factor in the settlement of a new country. He and his wife were both teachers and members of the Methodist church, and he was a strong advocate of temperance, having held the first supper in a "logging bee" without the use of whisky, then so common. The mother was born in New York in 1814, and died during the Civil war. She was reared in New York.

After his first marriage Mr. Dufur located in Algansee township, where he purchased and cultivated a farm of fifty acres, making his home thereon for ten years, when he sold that property and bought a farm of ninety acres on section twenty-one, Union township. He then made that place his home until about 1890, when he bought a little farm of ten acres on section nine near the corporation limits of Union City. He rents his land, while he lives retired, enjoying a rest to which he is entitled because of his activity and energy in former years.

Mr. Dufur has supported the Democratic party at many elections, but he also voted for Peter Cooper, and his last presidential vote was cast for the candidate of the Prohibition party. He has long been interested in politics, has frequently attended the county, district and congressional conventions, and has always kept well informed on the issues and questions which divide the nation into great political organizations. He and his wife belong to the Methodist Episcopal church of Union City, and his life has been in harmony with his principles. He has ever favored educational and philanthropic measures and stood as the champion of everything that is right and just between man and his fellowman. His residence in Branch county covers fifty-

eight years, and therefore he is one of its worthy old settlers who has an intimate knowledge of the growth of the county, the transformation that has been wrought here and of pioneer conditions, as well as of later day progress. He has now passed the seventy-third milestone on life's journey and he receives the respect and veneration which should ever be accorded one of advanced years.

DAVID FOX.

David Fox, a well-known representative of agricultural interests living in Girard township, was born on the 10th of January, 1845, in the village of Girard. His father, Backus Fox, was a native of Penfield, New York, and became one of the early settlers of Branch county. Here he was married in Girard to Miss Julia Williams, also a native of Penfield, whence she came in pioneer times to Michigan. Mr. Fox was a farmer by occupation and took up land from the government, transforming the hitherto wild and unimproved tract into a well-cultivated and productive farm. He continued to reside in Girard up to the time of his death, which occurred in December, 1885, when he was seventy-three years of age. His wife passed away in Girard in 1890 at the age of sixty-eight years. In their family were eleven children, six sons and five daughters, all of whom reached manhood or womanhood, namely: Charles, who died while serving in the Union army; Myron, who also gave his life in defense of his country in the Civil war; Mrs. Martha Van Blarcon, of Girard, deceased; Edwin P., who is a resident of Coldwater; Lyman, of Girard; Franklin, of Girard; Mrs. Philia Amelia Dake, of Kalamazoo, Michigan; Mrs. Clara Driggs, of Chicago, Illinois; Mrs. Mary Colson, of Kalkaska, Michigan; Mrs. Marian Wilder, of Cleveland, Ohio; and David, of this review. Four of the brothers were soldiers of the Civil war.

David Fox was reared upon the old family homestead in Girard township, and at the outbreak of the Civil war, when only sixteen years of age, he enlisted in his country's service in Branch county in response to the call for three months' troops, becoming a member of Company C, First Michigan Infantry. He was discharged August 27, 1861, but immediately re-enlisted in Company E of the same regiment for three years. On the expiration of that term he was discharged October 1, 1864, but on the 25th of March, 1865, once more joined the army for six months' service as a member of Company K, Fifteenth Michigan Infantry. Thus he was in the army for almost four years, and he made a most creditable military record, taking part in many important engagements, in which he displayed his valor and loyalty.

Following the close of hostilities Mr. Fox went to California in the spring of 1868 and remained upon a ranch there until the fall of 1872, when he returned to Girard, where he has since resided. He now owns and operates a valuable farm of one hundred acres on section eleven. This is improved with good buildings and all modern equipments. He uses the best machinery to cultivate the fields and care for the crops and his farm in every department is neat and thrifty, indicating his careful supervision and progressive spirit.

He has a comfortable home, tastefully furnished and its hospitality is one of its attractive features.

On the 15th of March, 1868, Mr. Fox was united in marriage to Miss Adelaide Olney, a daughter of Jesse and Betsy (Fox) Olney, who were also pioneer residents of Girard township. Unto our subject and his wife have been born a son and daughter: Jessie C., who was born in California, April 22, 1869, wedded Amos Johnson, and they have two sons, Hugh and Teen; they reside in Chicago; and Myron, who was born in Girard, November 19, 1876, and married Belle Ostrom, by whom he has one daughter, Margorie Belle. He lives in Girard.

Mr. and Mrs. Fox are devoted members of the Girard Methodist Episcopal church, and he belongs to Butterworth Post No. 106, G. A. R., of Coldwater. The ranks of Civil war soldiers are fast being decimated as one after another answers the last roll call. Mr. Fox is among the few who remain to tell the story of the long struggle for the supremacy of the Union, and few indeed are those who made as creditable a record, for during almost four years he was on active duty, never faltering in his defense of the old flag. At all times he has been equally loyal to his country and her welfare, and the community in which he now lives recognizes him as a representative and valued citizen.

THOMAS DEXTER.

Nearly all of the sturdy pioneers who came from New York and other eastern states to Michigan in the early thirties, forties and fifties, and braved all the hardships and privations incident to life in a new country, have passed away. Theirs were lives filled with arduous labors and stirring incidents, and to them is the present generation greatly indebted for many of the privileges and blessings now enjoyed. Many of these pioneers came here when they were young men, and they grew to manhood here, rearing families of children and making for themselves permanent homes here, where they have passed the remainder of their lives. Living as they did all through the various stages of development of this section, their personal history is almost identical with the history of the section where their lives have been passed. One of these pioneers is the gentleman named above, who has been a continuous resident of the township of Butler since 1852, and who has witnessed all of the changes and improvements which have taken place here during that period.

Mr. Thomas Dexter is a native of Norfolk, England, where he was born November 16, 1829. Mr. Dexter was only seventeen years of age when he decided to try his fortunes in America, where two of his brothers had gone ten years previously. He accordingly made the journey in the primitive manner of the times, and eventually reached Orleans county, New York, in 1847, where his brothers had located. Thomas Dexter's father was Golden Dexter and his mother was Sarah Goose, both natives of England, where they were married, passed their entire lives and where they died. They were the parents of six children, as follows: Robert died in Orleans county, New York. John died in Whitewater, Wisconsin. James died in England.

Phyllis Dexter Myhill is still living and a resident of Orleans county, New York. Mary Dexter Bargewell still lives in England. All of the members of the Dexter family have lived to be over seventy years of age, they being noted for their logevity, and all have been industrious people.

Our subject, Thomas Dexter, began labor as soon as he was located in Orleans county, New York, principally upon the farm. His first summer's work resulted in his saving forty dollars, and the second summer saw sixty dollars additional saved. With this capital of one hundred dollars the young man, to quote his present words, thought he was fully the equal of John Jacob Astor or any of the then wealthy men of the country, and he at once placed the sum where it would be safe, and where it would bring him good interest. It will thus be seen that early in life he was filled with frugal and saving ideas and that it was his intention to accumulate property.

After a few years spent in the state of New York, where he labored assiduously and saved his earnings, he decided to join the tide of emigration which had been flowing from the Empire state to Michigan for nearly a score of years, and he accordingly made the trip here, arriving in Detroit in 1852. Three years previously Mr. Dexter had gone as far west as Whitewater, Wisconsin, where he stayed only a short time, afterward returning to his former home in New York. Our subject found his way to Branch county and Butler in 1852. Here, during the first few years of his stay, he worked by the month and continued his practice of saving, and he soon had sufficient funds with which to purchase land on section two, which he has since added to, owning at one time one hundred and twenty acres thereon. This farm was almost wholly uncleared when purchased by Mr. Dexter, and with his own hands he has made all of the many improvements since. The farm is a fine one, with good buildings and equipped with all of the machinery necessary for its successful operation.

Mr. Dexter was married in 1863 to Melissa McCone, a native of Livingston county, New York, she being the daughter of Isaac McCone. They were married in Butler and five children were born to them, as follows: A son Fay died in 1898 at the age of twenty-three years. Sarah Dexter married Fred Easton. They have four children, Neleta, Pearl, Thomas and Lula, and their home is in Homer. Golden V. Dexter married Eva Moore and he lives in Butler. Mary Dexter married Claude Hinkley and their home is in Girard. They have three children: Floyd, Ruel and Mildred. Clark Dexter married Alta Curtis, and they have one daughter, Le Moyne. Their home is in Butler, adjoining Mr. Dexter's farm. Mrs. Dexter passed away in June, 1898.

Mr. Dexter possesses an interesting fund of reminiscence concerning the early history of this portion of the township of Butler, and the many changes which have taken place here. When he first came to this place the houses and settlers were few and far between, there were but few school houses, no church buildings, while the nearest postoffice was at Homer, in Calhoun county. Of the men who were living here then only two remain, Mr. Dexter and Phillip Haight, a neghbor, mention of whom is to be found elsewhere in this volume. Those early days were filled with hard labor and few if any luxuries, but nevertheless a great deal of solid enjoyment was extracted from

life. Mr. Dexter has all his life until within a few years been a hard-working man, and he has prospered financially, his farm being one of the best in this section, and where he has a most comfortable home. He has now retired from the active operation of his place, and he is passing his declining days in the section which has been the scene of his life's labors. Mr. Dexter has been a Democrat all his life, and although not an office seeker has served his district upon several occasions as an officer. He is a man who commands the respect and esteem of his fellow townsmen, all of whom hope he has many years of usefulness before him.

FRANK T. TAPPAN.

Frank T. Tappan, prominently connected with the leading industrial interests of Coldwater, was the founder and is now manager of the Tappan Shoe Manufacturing Company. His life history stands as an exemplification of what can be accomplished through determination of effort guided by resolute will and directed by sound judgment, for he started out in life as an humble employe, working his way upward by his close application, fidelity to duty and improvement of the opportunities which uniformly surround all citizens of this great republic.

A native of New Hampshire, Mr. Tappan was born in the town of Sandwich, April 21, 1858, and is descended from an old New England family of Puritan stock. His early childhood and a portion of his youth were spent at Haverhill and at Lynn, Massachusetts, and when only twelve years of age he was thrown upon his own resources, since which time he has depended entirely upon his labors for a livelihood and all that he has enjoyed in life. He began to learn the shoemaker's trade in Haverhill and from the age of sixteen years has been continually identified with the manufacture of shoes. In his boyhood days he had limited educational advantages, and after going to New York city he supplemented his early opportunities by pursuing a four years' course in the night school in Cooper Union. He was employed in different shoe factories of New York city for several years, gradually winning promotion in recognition of his capability, after which he became foreman of a large manufacturing plant of that character. He was afterward superintendent of shoe factories at various times and places in the middle west and was thus employed until 1891, in which year he established at Muncie, Indiana, the Tappan Shoe Manufacturing Company, which was removed to Coldwater, Michigan, in the year 1897. The business was incorporated under the laws of this state and has become one of the leading industrial concerns of Branch county. The factory has a capacity of three thousand pairs of shoes daily, and is one of the largest houses in the United States, dealing strictly with the retail trade, making ladies', misses' and children's shoes. Under the management of Mr. Tappan, a gentleman of broad experience, the shoes made by this company have become celebrated for high quality, a fine grade of leather being used. The factory is equipped with the most modern machinery, and only high class workmen are employed. The success of the concern is due to Mr. Tappan's thorough knowledge of the trade, his sapient

business qualities, his keen discernment and his thorough understanding of trade conditions.

When twenty-one years of age Mr. Tappan became a Mason, and is now a Knight Templar and a member of the Mystic Shrine. Of a pleasant, genial disposition, he makes friends wherever he goes and is held in high esteem in Coldwater, where he has now resided for eight years. His name in business circles has become a synonym for integrity and straightforward dealing. His life has been one of continuous activity, in which has been accorded due recognition of labor, and today he is numbered among the substantial citizens of his county. His interests are thoroughly identified with those of the west, and at all times he is ready to lend his aid and co-operation to any movement calculated to benefit this section of the country or advance its wonderful development.

ZELOTES G. OSBORN.

Zelotes G. Osborn was born in Otsego county, New York, March 5, 1839. His parents, Ozra Burr and Matilda (Flint) Osborn, were both natives of the Empire state. The family is of English lineage but has been represented in America through many generations. Ozra Burr Osborn was a physician, who devoted his life to the practice of medicine, his death occurring in the Empire state when his son Zelotes was about seventeen years of age. In the family were two sons, the brother of our subject being Marcius E. Osborn of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Zelotes G. Osborn was reared in the state of his nativity, where he acquired a fair literary education, and at the age of seventeen years, soon after the death of his father, he started out in life on his own account. About that time he came to the west. His father was the originator of Osborn Golden Ointment and to sell this and other preparations Mr. Osborn of this review came to Michigan. He traveled all over this part of the state, making Coldwater, however, his headquarters. It was in 1858 that he became a resident of Branch county, where he has since remained. He was on the road selling medicine until 1861, when he took up his abode on a farm in Kinderhook township, there carrying on agricultural pursuits until 1870. In that year he opened a general store at Kinderhook, where he followed merchandising until 1882, when he sold his business. In 1880 he was elected county register of deeds, was re-elected in 1882 and again in 1884, thus serving for three terms, or six years. He removed to Coldwater in 1880 in order to enter upon the duties of the office and in February, 1887, he purchased a drug and grocery store here, conducting it with success until 1899, when he sold out and retired from active business life. He has long been identified, however, with the Coldwater National Bank and was chosen its vice president in 1902. His well directed labors in former years brought him a competency which now makes possible his retirement and his life history stands in exemplification of the fact that success is not a matter of genius but is rather the outcome of clear judgment, experience and indefatigable industry.

In 1859 Mr. Osborn was united in marriage to Miss Mary L. Stimson,

who was born in Genesee county, New York, a daughter of the Rev. H. K. Stimson, a Baptist clergyman and a well known citizen of his section of the Empire state. Mr. and Mrs. Osborn have but one child, Willis H., who is now in the railway postal service. The parents hold membership in the Baptist church and are very active and helpful in its work. Mr. Osborn has been a member of the library board of Coldwater since 1881 and his labors in behalf of community affairs have been far-reaching and beneficial. While living in Kinderhook he served for eighteen years as postmaster and he also held various township offices. In politics he is a stanch Republican and has been more or less active in political work, while his comprehensive understanding of the questions and issues of the day enables him to support his position by intelligent argument.

SAMUEL SCHULTZ, M. D.

Dr. Samuel Schultz, one of the younger members of the medical fraternity of Coldwater, was born in Belleville, Wayne county, Michigan, July 7, 1869, his parents being Jacob F. and Christina (Schaffer) Schultz, both of whom were natives of Germany but were brought to America in childhood and were married in this country. The father lived several years at Ann Arbor, Michigan, whence he removed to Belleville, where he has resided continuously since 1872. He is interested in the manufacture of barrels there and is a leading representative of the industrial life of that city. He is also prominent and influential in community affairs and served for one term as mayor of Lansing, being elected on the Republican ticket, in a Democratic city, a fact indicative of his personal popularity and the confidence reposed in him by his fellow townsmen. In his family were nine children, one now deceased.

Dr. Schultz attended the public schools of Lansing, was for one year a student in the Agricultural College of Michigan and acquired his more specifically literary education in Albion College, from which he was graduated with the class of 1893. He spent two years in the medical department of the University of Michigan and afterward two years in the medical department of Northwestern University, at Chicago, and completed his course by graduation in the spring of 1899. In the fall of the same year he located for practice in Coldwater. Professionally and financially he has been quite successful and his position in the ranks of the medical fraternity is a very creditable one. Dr. Schultz has demonstrated his ability as a physician, and he is now accorded a good patronage. He belongs to the Branch County Medical Society, the State Medical Society and the American Medical Association, and is serving as health officer of Coldwater.

Dr. Schultz is a Master Mason, and his ideas concerning man's relations to his fellow men are further indicated by his membership in the Methodist church. He was elected president of the Bon Ami Club in 1902, and re-elected in 1903 and 1904. He was married March 18, 1905, to Miss L. Annie Bacon, of Chelsea, Michigan.

BURT M. FELLOWS.

Burt M. Fellows, engaged in a general insurance business in Coldwater, was born in Tonawanda, Niagara county, New York, January 1, 1867, his parents being Theron D. and Sarah L. (McConkey) Fellows, both of whom were natives of New York. They removed to Springport, Michigan, in 1868, and in 1872 became residents of Bronson, since which time their son, Burt M. Fellows, has been a resident of Branch county. The father was a veteran of the Civil war, serving for a little more than three years in the Twenty-eighth New York Infantry. Afterward re-enlisting, he became a member of the New York Mounted Rifles. He died at Bronson, July 11, 1900, at the age of sixty-five years and Mrs. Fellows has since married C. G. Babcock, with whom she now resides in Bronson.

Burt M. Fellows was reared in Bronson, where he acquired his education in the public schools. He afterward accepted a position in the private bank of L. Rudd & Son of that place and was connected with the institution, covering a period of nine years. In 1893 he joined his father-in-law, G. E. Robinson, in the conduct of a grocery store at Bronson and at length closed out his interest therewith in order to resume the duties of county clerk, to which position he had been elected in the fall of 1896 on the Democratic ticket. At this election he overcame a normal Republican majority and in 1898 he was re-elected, thus serving for two terms. His course in office was characterized by promptness and fidelity and he discharged his duties with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents. Following his retirement from office he turned his attention to the general insurance business, in which he yet continues, and he now annually writes a large amount of business, being one of the well known representatives of this department of activity in Coldwater.

In 1889 Mr. Fellows was married to Miss Luella Robinson and they have a daughter and son, Ruth, twelve years of age and Mac, nine years old. Mr. Fellows is a valued representative of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and also of the Masonic fraternity, in which he has attained the Royal Arch degree. He has from the age of five years been a resident of Branch county and has witnessed much of its growth and development, while in his business, social and political relations he has contributed to the material progress of the county and has also upheld its legal and moral status.

HON. CHARLES N. LEGG.

Hon. Charles N. Legg, an attorney, who is now serving as mayor of Coldwater, was born in Niagara county, New York, February 24, 1846. His parents, Arteman H. and Sarah Irene (Southworth) Legg, were among the oldest residents of Branch county. The father was born in Yates county, New York, December 20, 1822, and was a son of Charles and Sylva (Taft) Legg. When he was about nine or ten years of age he accompanied his parents on their removal to Niagara county, New York, where he was reared to manhood, and in 1845 he was married there to Miss Sarah Irene South-

worth, who was born in Berkshire county, Massachusetts, in the town of Hancock, June 27, 1824. Her parents were Norman and Honor (Gardner) Legg, who removed to Niagara county when she was only two years old. During the first eight years of their married life Mr. and Mrs. Arteman H. Legg resided in Niagara county, and in 1853 they came to Branch county, settling on a farm in Coldwater township, where they made their home until 1903, since which time they have resided in the city of Coldwater. Throughout his active business career Mr. Legg followed the occupation of farming and is now enjoying a well merited rest from further labor. His first presidential vote was cast for James K. Polk and since the organization of the Republican party he has been one of its stanch advocates, while both he and his wife are consistent members of the Baptist church. In their family are the following named: Charles N., Mary E., Dr. Frank G., George S. and Edward.

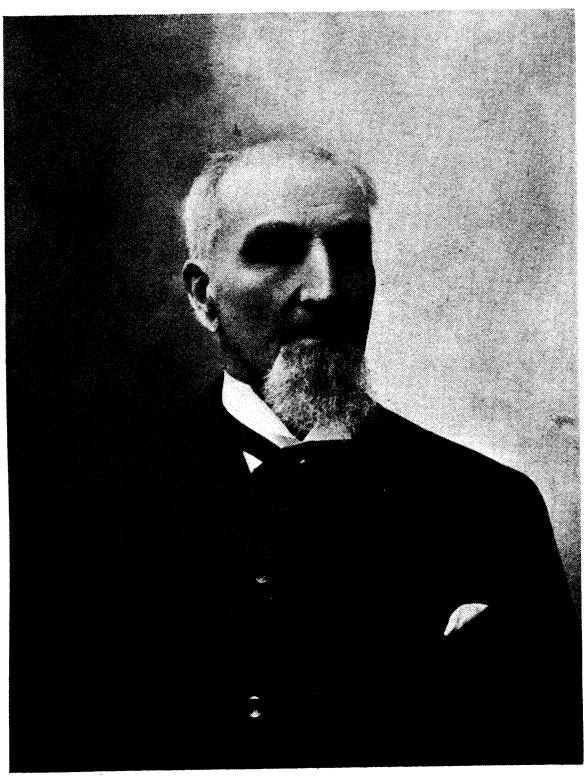
Charles N. Legg was in his eighth year when he accompanied his parents to Branch county and here he was reared on the old home farm, working in the fields through the summer months, while in the winter seasons he attended the district schools. Later he became a student in the city schools of Coldwater and afterward spent one year in the University of Michigan, while subsequently he was for three years a student in the college at Kalamazoo, Michigan. He became ill, however, during his last year in college and returned to his home, after which he never again took up his collegiate work. He had previously engaged in teaching school for a few terms in the rural districts and now gave his attention to the study of law. Being admitted to the bar in 1873 he at once opened an office for practice in Coldwater and his efforts in the various courts have been attended with a gratifying degree of success. He has acquired a large and distinctively representative clientage and to-day ranks among the foremost lawyers of southern Michigan. He is a student, constantly enlarging his knowledge concerning the principles of jurisprudence, and in citing an authority he is seldom at fault. Mr. Legg is also recognized as one of the leading representatives of the Republican party in Branch county. In 1880 he was elected prosecuting attorney and served for four years. In 1892 he was chosen probate judge, which position he filled until January 1, 1897. In 1900 he was again elected prosecuting attorney and once more faithfully discharged the duties of that position for four years. In the spring of 1905 he was the successful candidate of the Republican party for mayor of Coldwater and is now the chief executive of the city, giving to it a businesslike and progressive administration that is characterized by a careful consideration of every question which comes up for settlement and of all measures relating to the public welfare. He is a stanch advocate of every movement which he believes will contribute to the general good and is equally strong in his position on measures which he deems inimical to the city's advancement. Mr. Legg is also a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity and has taken all of its degrees with one exception. He is also a Knight of Pythias and his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Baptist church.

In 1873 Mr. Legg was united in marriage to Miss Alice B. Stillman, who died in 1898, leaving three children: Llewellyn, now deceased; Harold S.; and Mabel Louise. In 1900 Mr. Legg married again, Miss Delia H. Benton becoming his wife. Civility and an unfailing courtesy have gained him the prominence in social life that close application and capability have won for him in his professional career. He has now gained a lucrative practice and ranks among the foremost public-spirited men, manifesting a helpful interest in all progressive measures for the benefit of Coldwater. He is a member of the Legg Lumber Company of this city, but aside from this sustains no other business relations, preferring to lead a professional life.

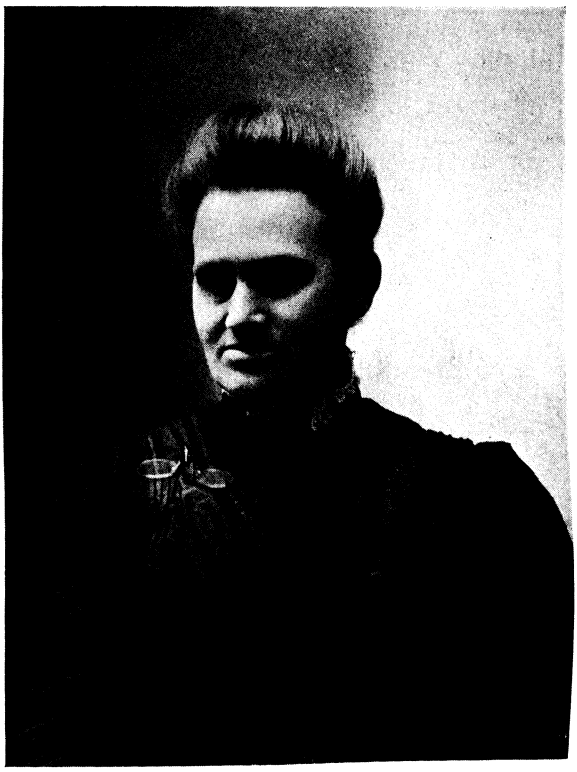
REUBEN M. SIMMONS.

Among the retired citizens of Union City Reuben M. Simmons is numbered. For many years he was an active representative of business pursuits. He was born in Lake county, Ohio, December 17, 1833. His grandfather, Peleg Simmons, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and was a sailor for twenty-two years on the high seas, having made twenty-two trips to the West Indies. His father, Horace Simmons, was a native of Connecticut, born near Springfield, and was a farmer by occupation. After living in Ohio for a number of years he removed to Michigan in 1863, settling in Salem township, Washtenaw county, where he resided until about 1873, when he came to Branch county. His last days were spent in Union City, and he died in his ninety-fifth year. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church for about seventy years, and lived a most honorable, upright life, being considerate in his treatment of his fellowmen, straightforward in all his business dealings and true to every trust reposed in him. He married Miss Philena Ford, a native of Massachusetts, who reached the age of seventy-six years. They were the parents of seven children, of whom two died in infancy. The following lines are part of a sketch which was printed in one of the local papers at the time of the father's death:

"In the death of Horace Simmons Union City and this township loses its oldest citizen. He was born on the 17th of July, 1799, and died on the 12th day of April, 1894, making him but little less than ninety-five years of age. What a wonderful transformation he has witnessed in this country since he came into being. He was only five years younger than the Constitution of the United States, under which the country has so rapidly and wonderfully developed. He lived before the age of railroads and steamboats, and when Fulton was steaming his strange looking craft up the Hudson he was a lad of eight years. He was born in Middletown, Connecticut, and at the age of seventeen removed with his parents to Lake county, Ohio, about twenty-two miles from Cleveland. In that new county he prepared and laid the foundation for a competence for his declining years. In 1824 he was united in marriage to Miss Philena Ford, and together they wended their way along the pathway of life until 1884, when she sickened and died. To them seven children were born, four of whom still survive: Mrs. F. Pratt, of South Lyons, Michigan; Mrs. A. P. Hodge, of Unionville, Ohio; Mrs.



R. M. Simmons



Lucy L. Simmons

N. C. Taylor, of Elmira, Michigan; and R. M. Simmons, of this place, with whom the later years of his life were spent, and at whose home he died.

"He lived in Lake county, Ohio, fifty-eight years, and then sold his possessions and came to Union City. When he went to his new home in the west Cleveland, his market place, was an insignificant little village, entirely devoid of everything to make it of interest to everyone. Its harbor had been mapped out, and its streets appeared only on paper. When he left it was one of the most beautiful cities on the western continent. In his religious belief he was a Methodist, and for more than seventy years was a member of that church. He was zealous in his faith, and during his lifetime did much to contribute to the advancement of the organization. When a sufficient number of families had been gathered in the wilderness he was instrumental in the organization of a Methodist church, and for a half century or more was an honored class leader in that body. His political affiliations were with the Whig party, but upon the organization of the Republican party he promptly gave his adherence to it. All through the dark times when fears were expressed that if certain measures were adopted looking to the circumscribing of slavery within the bounds where it then existed the Union would be dismembered he never wavered. He believed in the Union and had implicit faith that He who presides over the destinies of nations would bring this one out from under the dark shadow purified and beautified by the trials through which it must ultimately pass. He lived for many years to see the fruition of his hopes, a country redeemed and its people both north and south acknowledging the baneful influences that slavery brings.

"The funeral services were held at the home of his son, where he died on Friday, being conducted by Rev. G. C. Draper, pastor of the Methodist church, and by Rev. H. S. Mills, pastor of the Congregational church, both of whom paid glowing tributes to the memory of the deceased. The remains were then conveyed to their last resting place in Riverside cemetery. A good citizen, a faithful husband, a loving father, a true friend has gone to the eternal city, where the good and the true only will bask in the light and presence of the Eternal One."

The following was written in memory of the loving wife and mother: "Entered into rest on Wednesday, May 21, 1884, Mrs. Horace Simmons, aged seventy-six years, nine months and fifteen days. Philena Ford was born in Plainfield, Massachusetts, August 6, 1807. While a child her parents removed to Ohio, settling in Madison, Lake county. Here in 1825 she was married to Horace Simmons, with whom she lived for nearly sixty years, until death separated them, leaving Father Simmons to journey alone until the glad reunion. About two years after their marriage both were converted and united with the Methodist Episcopal church, of which they have been faithful members ever since. Their house has been an 'Itinerant's Lodge,' and until the infirmities of age shut her away from active life she was constantly in the prosperity of our town. Her religious hope did not decline as bodily strength failed. To her pastor she often spoke cheerfully of the present, and yet lovingly of that future toward which her faith looked. Almost

her last words on earth were about the rest into which she has entered. 'She rests from her labors, and her works do follow her.' "

Reuben M. Simmons, the fifth member of their family and the second son, was reared in the Buckeye state and was a resident of Willoughby, Ohio, until 1862. He then offered his services to the government and joined the boys in blue, becoming a private in Company F, One Hundred and Fifth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He served until the close of the war in 1865, or for two years, ten months and two days. He was in all the battles with his command, except the engagement at Missionary Ridge, and he participated in the battle of Perryville, October 8, 1862, where he served on detached duty, being there wounded and having his horse shot under him, and was again wounded at the battle of Stone River. At Chickamauga he was wounded three times, and he carries one of the bullets to this day. At Marietta, Georgia, he was also shot, and thus was wounded six times in all, but no matter how desperate were the chances which he had to take, or how great the danger, he never faltered in the performance of any duty and his valor and bravery made him a model soldier. He remained a private throughout the war, but acted as commissary sergeant during the last years of his service. He went with Sherman on the celebrated march to the sea, and he also participated in the Grand Review in Washington, where the victorious army of thousands marched by the stand on which stood the president, cheering the loyal defenders of the Union cause. He received his honorable discharge at Cleveland, Ohio, June 8, 1865. He was the first man to sign a petition to organize the Corbin G. A. R. Post in Union City, which is now a flourishing organization.

When the country no longer needed his aid Mr. Simmons gladly resumed the practice of civil life, locating in Salem, Washtenaw county, Michigan, where he engaged in farming for twelve years. He came to Branch county in 1877, settling in Union City, where he has since made his home. He learned the carpenter's trade when a boy, and in early life followed that pursuit, but is now living a retired life.

On the 24th of December, 1854, Mr. Simmons was united in marriage to Miss Emma J. Childs, who died in 1879, and on the 19th of May, 1880, he married Miss Lucy L. Ward, a daughter of Harry and Elizabeth (Kline) Ward. Mrs. Simmons was born in Portage county, Ohio, and was brought to Michigan in 1859, during her early girlhood days, the family home being established in Branch county. They now have one son, Harry M., of Chicago. He graduated in the Union City public school, and was then a student at the State University at Ann Arbor. He is now salesman in the W. C. Ritchie Company, of Chicago, Illinois, at a lucrative salary. He wedded Miss Lavina Baert, September 27, 1905, a refined, educated lady. Mr. Harry Simmons is an honor to his parents. When Mr. Ward was called away by death one of the local papers said of him: "Harry Ward, one of our oldest and most respected citizens, died at his home just north of this city on Friday of last week, May 3, 1901. He was born in Poland, Ohio, November 25, 1823, and in 1852 was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Kline. In 1859 they came to Michigan, first settling in Batavia, in this county. After living

there about a year they came to Union City, since which time this has been his home. His wife died February 6, 1899, since which time he has lived with his son Albert and daughter Lillie. Mr. Ward was a cabinet-maker by trade and followed that avocation in his younger years. At one time, however, he engaged in the grocery and bakery business here. He was the father of five children, three of whom survive, Mrs. R. M. Simmons, Albert and Lillie, all of whom live here. The elder daughter was in Florida when her mother died, and in Chicago undergoing surgical treatment when her father passed out from the realm of human life, and to her was denied the last sad privilege of closing her parents' eyes in their eternal slumber. Mr. Ward was an Episcopalian and very devoted to his church. The funeral was conducted under the direction of Rev. Holbrook, pastor of the Congregational church, who employed the beautiful burial service of the Episcopal church. The remains were laid to rest in the family lot in Riverside."

On the occasion of the death of Mrs. Ward the following was written: "Elizabeth Kline was born in Darmstadt, Germany, and came to this country when quite young with her parents. She was married to Harry Ward in 1852. They came to Michigan in 1859, living for one year in Batavia, and then moved to Union City, which has since been their home. She died February 6, 1899. She was the mother of five children, three of whom survive. Libbie, a bright little daughter, died in early youth. Henry, the eldest son, died fourteen years ago, leaving two children, Carrie and Harris, who have since been cared for in the home of their grandparents. The surviving children are: Mrs. R. M. Simmons, who, with her family, are spending the winter in Florida, and was unable to be with the family in their affliction. Albert and Lillie still reside in Union City. Mrs. Ward early learned the serious and earnest side of life, having been left when a young girl to care for a family by the death of her mother. No one acquainted with Mrs. Ward in later years could believe that she was anything but faithful to those left in her care. An earnest and strictly conscientious woman, she was ever ready to sacrifice her own pleasure and convenience for the welfare of others. It seemed her greatest pleasure to be doing good. No one ever lived near her long enough to be called neighbor who will not through life bear a feeling of gratitude to her for gentle and unselfish acts of kindness. Her mission was to give more than to receive. No one called in vain upon her when health permitted her to respond. With the sick and dying she was very often found, and many old friends outside the now broken family circle will mourn for her as a departed friend and benefactor. She often forgot self in her anxiety for the welfare of others.

"Two years age she suffered a distressing illness from which she never quite recovered, and this made her a more easy prey to the dread pneumonia which closed a noble and unselfish life."

Since the organization of the Republican party Mr. Simmons has voted for the presidential candidates, never failing to support each nominee at the head of the ticket since Fremont was made the first candidate of the party. He has been school director, also township clerk, and in all matters of citizenship is progressive and faithful. He belongs to Corbin Post, No. 88, G.

A. R., in which he has filled most of the offices and is a past commander. He was chaplain at the time of the organization of the post. He also belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Degree of Honor, and he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he has been steward, trustee and class leader. His wife is a member of the Episcopal church. In all the work of the church he has taken an active part, and his Christian faith has permeated his entire life, making him a man well worthy the trust and honor which is accorded him.

WILLIAM VAN SLYCK.

William Van Slyck, who is now living a retired life after many years of active connection with business affairs wherein he justly won the proud American title of a "self-made man" and also gained an honorable competence, is a native of the state of New York, his birth having occurred in Columbia county, March 8, 1832. His father, Isaac Van Slyck, was born near Albany, New York, whence he removed to Columbia county, where he followed the occupation of farming. He was a son of Cornelius Van Slyck, a native of Columbia county, New York, a soldier of the Revolutionary war, and a descendant of Holland Dutch ancestry. Isaac Van Slyck spent his last years in Wayne county, New York, where he died in his eightieth year. He married Elizabeth Van Dusen, whose birth occurred in Columbia county, New York, in the township of Kinderhook, her father being Cornelius Van Dusen, likewise born in the same county, and a cousin of Martin Van Buren. Mr. Van Dusen was also of Holland lineage, and Mrs. Van Slyck lived to the age of seventy-five years. In their family were seven children, four sons and three daughters, all of whom reached mature years, married and reared families of their own. The only surviving ones at this writing are William and Margaret, the latter the widow of Wesley Wilber. She lives in Palmyra, Wayne county, New York, in her eighty-fourth year.

William Van Slyck, the youngest of his father's family, spent his boyhood days in the usual manner of farm lads, working in the fields through the summer months and attending school in the winter seasons. The duties of the school room, the pleasures of the play ground and the work of the farm thus occupied his attention in his native county until he was about sixteen years of age, when he removed with his parents to Wayne county, New York, and in 1855 he came to Coldwater, Michigan, where he engaged in the truck business, following that continuously until 1892, when he retired from active life. He realized that labor is the basis of all success and he worked diligently and indefatigably to acquire a comfortable competence, which now enables him in his declining years to rest from further labor.

Mr. Van Slyck was married October 23, 1883, to Miss Clara B. Ball, who was born in Devonshire, England, April 16, 1852, her parents being William K. and Martha J. (McGinnis) Ball, both of whom were natives of England, the father having been born in Devonshire and the mother in Southampton. Mrs. Van Slyck was reared in the place of her nativity and resided there until 1871, when she came to Coldwater with her parents. Her father

was a carpenter and builder and was identified with building operations in this city until his death, which occurred in 1872 when he was fifty-three years of age. Mrs. Van Slyck was the eldest daughter and second child in a family of five children.

William Van Slyck continued in active connection with business interests of Coldwater from 1855 to 1892 and during that period accumulated considerable property, the supervision of which now claims his attention. He is somewhat independent in his political views, but usually supports the Democratic party where national issues are involved, but in 1904 voted for Roosevelt. His wife belongs to the Baptist church and he has taken an active and helpful interest in church work, contributing liberally to its support. He has also assisted in other lines of substantial development and permanent good here and his worth as a citizen and business man has long since been proven. Without ostentation and display in his active career he has nevertheless made a life record which is worthy of commendation and of emulation, for it shows what can be accomplished when one is willing to work and when his labors are guided by sound judgment and honorable purpose.

CHARLES W. CHAPMAN.

Charles W. Chapman, connected with the productive industries of Coldwater as a manufacturer of cigars, was born in this city September 27, 1851. His father, William Chapman, was a native of New York and became one of the pioneer residents of Branch county, Michigan, where he was known as Blind Billy. For many years he engaged in the grocery business, winning the respect and confidence of all with whom he was associated, and his death occurred here on the 13th of May, 1863. He married Anetta A. Bagley, who was born in Cambridge, New York, in 1820 and became a resident of Coldwater in 1837. She passed away September 9, 1887, at the age of sixty-seven years, while Mr. Chapman was fifty-one years of age at the time of his death.

Charles W. Chapman is now the only surviving member of the family, his only brother, George, dying when but a year old. His youth was passed in his native city and to its public school system he is indebted for the educational privileges he enjoyed. He spent about seven years in Indiana and on the 12th of May, 1900, he began the manufacture of cigars in Coldwater, his special brands being the C. W. C. and Lord Crosby. He employs about sixteen men and the capacity of his plant is continually taxed in order to meet the demands of the trade. The business has from the beginning been a prosperous one, Mr. Chapman meeting with well merited success in his undertakings.

In September, 1900, occurred the marriage of Charles W. Chapman and Miss Carrie D. Early, a daughter of Michael Early of Coldwater, both of whom were natives of Germany. Mr. Chapman belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Knights of the Maccabees and his wife is connected with the Ladies' Auxiliary of the last named. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party and he has firm faith

in its principles. He holds membership in the Presbyterian church, while his wife is a member of the Lutheran church. As a busness man he is conspicuous for his success, for his probity and honorable methods. In everything he has been eminently practical and this has been manifest not only in his business undertakings but also in social and private life.

ALBERT A. SHERMAN.

Albert A. Sherman, a contractor and builder of Coldwater and a member of the board of public works, was born in Wayne county, New York, July 2, 1841. His father, Gilbert Sherman, was likewise a native of that county and was of Irish lineage. In his early business career he was connected with woolen manufacturing interest and later, having moved to Indiana, he turned his attention to farming, which he followed until about sixty years of age. He lived in Missouri for about three years and in Indiana for about eighteen years, and in 1871 he came to Coldwater, where he spent his remaining days, his death occurring when he was in his ninetieth year. In religious belief he was a spiritualist, and fraternally was one of the oldest Odd Fellows of the county, becoming a member of that organization when a young man. He wedded Hannah Rowley, who was also a native of Wayne county, New York, and died when about sixty-three years of age. She came of Welsh and Scotch ancestry. Mr. and Mrs. Sherman were the parents of three sons, all of whom are yet living: Esquire, who resides in Allen township, Noble county, Indiana; Albert A.; and Daniel R., a druggist and physician of Lansing, Michigan.

Albert A. Sherman, the second son, spent the first eight years of his life in the county of his nativity, and then accompanied his parents on their removal to Noble county, Indiana, where he lived for about eighteen years. To some extent he attended the public schools, but his education has been largely acquired through practical experience, reading and observation. When seventeen years of age he was apprenticed by his father to learn the carpenter's trade, and during the greater part of the time down to the present he has continued his connection with building pursuits. He came to Coldwater about 1871 and was first engaged in the grocery business for about a year and a half. He afterward spent eight years in a planing mill, after which he resumed active work as a carpenter, and was also in the lumber business for about four years. In the meantime he began contracting, and continued in that department of labor in connection with other business interests. He has perhaps built more houses than any two men in the city, and Coldwater therefore is largely a monument to his enterprise and skill. He has always been faithful to the terms of a contract, prompt and reliable in the execution of his work and just in all of his dealings, and the liberal patronage accorded him has been in recognition of these salient and commendable qualities in his career.

Mr. Sherman was married in 1862 to Miss Julia Helman, and after her death he was married on the 2nd of July, 1878, to Mary Holland, a daughter of Anthony Holland. Mr. Sherman is a Democrat and for four terms

held the office of alderman of Coldwater. In 1896 he was elected mayor, discharging his duties so capably that in 1897 he was re-elected, and at the second election carried all of the wards in his city—a fact which indicates his personal popularity and the confidence which was reposed in him. He gave to Coldwater a business-like, practical and progressive administration, which won him high encomiums, never allowing partisan bias to interfere with the faithful performance of every duty which devolved upon him. Whether in office or out of it he is loyal to the general welfare and his public-spirited devotion to the general good has found tangible proof on many occasions. He is a prominent member of the Masonic Fraternity and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and has filled many offices in those organizations. He likewise belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen and to the Methodist Episcopal church. His life has been as an open book which all may read and his history discloses many sterling traits of character, commending him to the confidence and trust of those with whom he has been associated. His circle of friends is extensive and is the result of geniality, unfailing courtesy and deference for the opinions of others.

JOHN N. NEAL.

John N. Neal, engaged in the dairy business in Coldwater, was born in Lodi, Seneca county, New York, August 30, 1851. His father, George Neal, was a native of the Empire state and was a farmer by occupation. He married Floretta Van Vleet, also a native of the Empire state, and both died there. They were the parents of three sons: Isaac H., now deceased; John N.; and Sarin A., who is living in Lodi.

John N. Neal spent the days of his boyhood in the place of his nativity, and acquired his education in the district schools. When about eighteen years of age he secured a situation in a general store at Lodi, where he remained until twenty-seven years of age, his long connection with one firm being an unmistakable indication of his fidelity to duty. On the expiration of that period he embarked in business on his own account at Lodi as a partner in the firm of Neal & Meeker, proprietors of a general store. They conducted this for about two and a half years, when they closed out the business, after which Mr. Neal engaged in the sale of self-supporting roofs for barns, introducing these into various parts of the country. He was thus engaged for five years, traveling through different states in the middle west and the east. He afterward engaged in the sale of wire fencing. On the 23rd of October, 1884, he arrived in Coldwater, where he introduced his self-supporting rafter. Not long afterward he purchased a farm adjoining this city and erected thereon fine farm buildings, turning his attention to the dairy business. He now keeps from fifty to sixty cows for dairy purposes and forty head of cattle in addition. He makes his home at No. 191 Pearl street, where he has one of the fine residences of the city, but gives his attention to his dairy and has an extensive and profitable business.

In 1876 Mr. Neal was united in marriage to Miss Helen Howell, a daughter of Elijah and Harriett (Ault) Howell, and a native of Havana, New

York. Her girlhood days, however, were passed in Lodi, where her education was acquired. Mr. and Mrs. Neal have one son, Max E., who is a graduate of the law department of the State University at Ann Arbor, and having been admitted to the bar is now engaged in the practice of his chosen profession at Manistee, Michigan, as a partner in the law firm of Grant & Neal. They also lost one son, Mark H., who died at the age of fifteen years.

Mr. Neal is a staunch Republican. He became a member of the Masonic fraternity at Lodi, New York, and the chapter at Ovid, and has been a Royal Arch Mason for about twenty-seven years. His religious views are in accord with the teachings of the Episcopal church. Throughout his business career he has displayed sterling and commendable traits of character. A number of business enterprises have felt the stimulus of his energy and executive ability, and in Coldwater he is now conducting a prosperous business, which yet leaves him time to faithfully perform all the duties of citizenship. Local improvement, as well as national progress, is a cause dear to his heart, and thus he has become a co-operant factor in measures which have proved of practical and far-reaching benefit to his adopted city.

HERMAN H. FLANDERMEYER.

In the history of Coldwater, its development and progress, it is imperative that mention should be made of Herman H. Flandermeyer, the pioneer shoe dealer of the city, whose activity in business has contributed in no small degree to the commercial development here. He was born in the little town of Bennien, in the province of Hanover, Germany, May 2, 1836, and was reared in the fatherland, acquiring his education in its public schools. Determining to seek his home and fortune in the new world he then bade adieu to friends and native country and sailed for Baltimore, Maryland, where he arrived after a voyage of nine weeks. From that city he made his way to Toledo, Ohio, where he remained for about six months, and on the 7th of April, 1855, he arrived in Coldwater, being at that time nineteen years of age. The entire period of his manhood has been here passed, and as the years have advanced he has shown that he is well worthy the regard and confidence which have uniformly been extended to him in an active business career. On the 6th of December, 1856, he became connected with the shoe business in connection with his brother, Fred W., who had been a resident of Coldwater for one year, and who died here on the 4th of March, 1900. They continued together until 1872, when they dissolved partnership and each started in business separately. There is no business man of Coldwater now connected with industrial or commercial pursuits who was a representative of his line at the time that Mr. Flandermeyer took up his abode here. He started in a small way, having about two hundred dollars which he had saved from his wages while working at the shoemaker's trade. As the years have passed he has prospered and has long enjoyed a very liberal patronage. He carries a large and well selected line of goods and his sales annually represent a gratifying figure. He is also one of the stockholders of the Tappan Shoe Factory.

In 1860 Mr. Flandermeyer was married, and at the death of his first wife she left an infant daughter eleven days old, who is now the wife of Emil Stroh, of Detroit, Michigan. After five years Mr. Flandermeyer was again married, his second union being with Henrietta Best, who died twelve years later. His third wife bore the maiden name of Augusta Beukemann, and was a native of Cleveland, Ohio. They became the parents of five children, but one is now deceased. The others are: Francis H., a resident of Coldwater; Louis F., of Milwaukee; Perry W., who is now engaged in the boot and shoe business at Niles, Michigan; and Herman E., also of Milwaukee.

Mr. Flandermeyer was reared in the faith of the Lutheran church. In 1859 a meeting was held by the Lutherans of this place in the court house, there being nine in attendance. The little body of Christian people erected a church on a lot on Jefferson street, and Mr. Flandermeyer became one of its trustees. Since that time he has striven earnestly to advance the cause of his denomination, and his life has been in entire harmony with his profession. He belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and also to the German Benevolent Society. In politics he is a staunch Republican, and in 1875 and 1876 he represented the Fourth ward in the city council. He has ever been interested in whatever tends to promote the material, social, political, intellectual and moral progress of his community and his labors have been effective in advancing the general welfare. His life is in many respects well worthy of emulation, showing what can be accomplished through strong and determined purpose. He has never made engagements that he has not kept, nor incurred obligations that he has not met, and his business record is such as any man might be proud to possess. Steadily he has worked his way upward from an humble position to one of affluence and is now numbered among the prosperous merchants of Coldwater, while as the oldest representative of trade relations here he is certainly deserving of mention in this volume.

M. J. VAN AKEN.

M. J. Van Aken, a member of the firm of Van Aken Brothers, liverymen and florists of Coldwater, was born in Girard township, Branch county, Michigan, April 28, 1862. He is a son of James Hassan Van Aken, a retired early settler of this city, whose birth occurred about twenty miles south of Syracuse, New York, on the 3rd of October, 1820. He was the eldest son of Cornelius and Harriett (Phelps) Van Aken, and with his parents came to Michigan in 1833, the family home being established at Adrian. There they remained for three years, and in 1836 James H. Van Aken became a resident of Coldwater. He was at that time a youth of sixteen years, and he remained with his father upon the home farm, assisting in the arduous task of cleaning and cultivating the land until his twenty-first year. He then went to Canada, where he worked for an uncle for three years, after which he returned to Branch county and purchased sixty acres of land from his father. Not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made upon the place, but he at once began to cultivate the fields and added buildings and

accessories, which made this an excellent farm. He also purchased forty acres of government land in Girard township and an adjoining tract of forty acres. Later he added fifty-six acres and then after clearing seven acres of this he sold his land in Girard township and came to Coldwater. Here he engaged in the livery business, building the barn which is now occupied by his sons in 1865. For twenty years he conducted the business and then sold out to his sons. In the meantime he had purchased another farm in Coldwater township of one hundred and sixty acres, and this property he still owns and rents.

James H. Van Aken was married the first time when about twenty-four years of age to Miss Maria Clement, and they had three sons: Ira, who is living in Oceana county, Michigan; George, also of the same county; and Myers, deceased. For his second wife Mr. Van Aken chose Susan Barney, whom he married in Canada, and they have two sons and a daughter: Mark J., Berney L. and Susan, the last named being the wife of Robert McFarson. For his third wife Mr. Van Aken chose Eliza Cronk, a sister of his second wife, and they have a daughter and son: Alma, at home; and J. Hiram, who is living in Coldwater. The mother died March 9, 1904. Mr. Van Aken is one of the pioneer settlers of Branch county and has been identified with its growth and development through almost seventy years, witnessing its transformation from a wild and unimproved region into a center of civilization. He has been a Republican since casting his vote for John C. Fremont, and for about thirty-five years has been a member of the Presbyterian church in Coldwater. His success has come to him through well directed and persistent effort and an honored name has been gained because of his fidelity to manly principles, his consideration for others and his justice and truth in all life's relations.

M. J. Van Aken, the oldest child of his father's second marriage, was reared and educated in Coldwater, the family removing from the farm to the city during his early boyhood. After putting aside his text books he and his brother, B. L. Van Aken, bought out the father's livery business. This was in 1887, and they have since conducted the barn, which is now the oldest established livery in the county. They rank, too, among the foremost representatives of their line of business and have an extensive patronage, owing to their earnest desire to please their customers, the excellent line of vehicles which they have, and their straightforward dealing. M. J. Van Aken was also engaged in farming for a few years on the old family homestead when a young man. In association with his brother he is also conducting a florist's business, the brother being active manager of the latter, while M. J. Van Aken has immediate charge of the livery business.

In 1883 occurred the marriage of M. J. Van Aken and Miss Gertrude Norton, and they became the parents of three children: Nina L., Edna N., and Hugh H., but the last named is the only one living. The mother also died in the fall of 1893. The eldest daughter died the following fall, and Edna passed away two years later. In 1895 Mr. Van Aken was married to Miss Anna Kerr, and they have one daughter, Susie Louise.

For forty-three years Mr. Van Aken has been a resident of Branch

county, spending the greater part of the time in the city of Coldwater, where he now has a very wide acquaintance. He has taken an active part in public affairs, becoming a co-operant factor in many measures for the general good. He was alderman of his ward for two terms or four years, and has been a member of the Masonic fraternity for a long period. He is also connected with the Order of Foresters, and is a supporter of the Presbyterian church, although not a member of any religious organization.

GEORGE M. WHITE.

George M. White, the oldest justice of the peace in years of continued service in the city of Coldwater, and also engaged in the insurance business in Coldwater, was born in Batavia township, this county, on the 6th of March, 1843. His father, Solomon White, was a native of Orleans county, New York, and in 1836 came westward to Michigan, purchasing land in Branch county, whereon he engaged in farming. He was but forty years of age, however, at the time of his death. An earnest and consistent Christian man, he was prominent in the membership of the Methodist church, took an active part in its work, and served as class leader. His father had died when he was a small child, and he was reared by his elder brother, George White. They were descendants of the Whites who came to America on the Mayflower in the year 1620, and later generations of the family removed from New England to New York. Solomon White was united in marriage to Lydia Warner, a native of Orleans county, New York, who died in Coldwater at the age of seventy-three years. Four years after the death of her first husband she became the wife of J. B. Wells, a resident of Coldwater township. She was the mother of three children, two daughters and a son: Martha J., now deceased; Laura M., the wife of William H. Sibley, of Riverdale, Michigan; and George M.

Reared in his native township George M. White acquired his education in the common schools, and when seventeen years of age he started out in life on his own account, working on a farm by the month. He was married December 25, 1860, when in his eighteenth year, to Miss Viana E. Bates, the daughter of P. C. and Mercy (Cole) Bates. They located in Bethel township, where they resided until August 9, 1862, and Mr. White, whose patriotic spirit was aroused by the attempt of the south to overthrow the Union, then enlisted as a member of Company H, Nineteenth Michigan Infantry. He served until June 10, 1865, nearly three years, and was promoted to the rank of corporal and acted as clerk of his company. In the battle of New Hope Church in the Atlanta campaign he was wounded and was then taken to a hospital at Nashville, Tennessee. After becoming convalescent he was transferred to the convalescent camp at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and acted as clerk for Colonel Smith, who was in command of the camp. Later he returned to his company, which at that time was at Atlanta, and went with Sherman on the celebrated march to the sea. He also participated in the Carolina campaign, and took part in the grand review in Washington, where

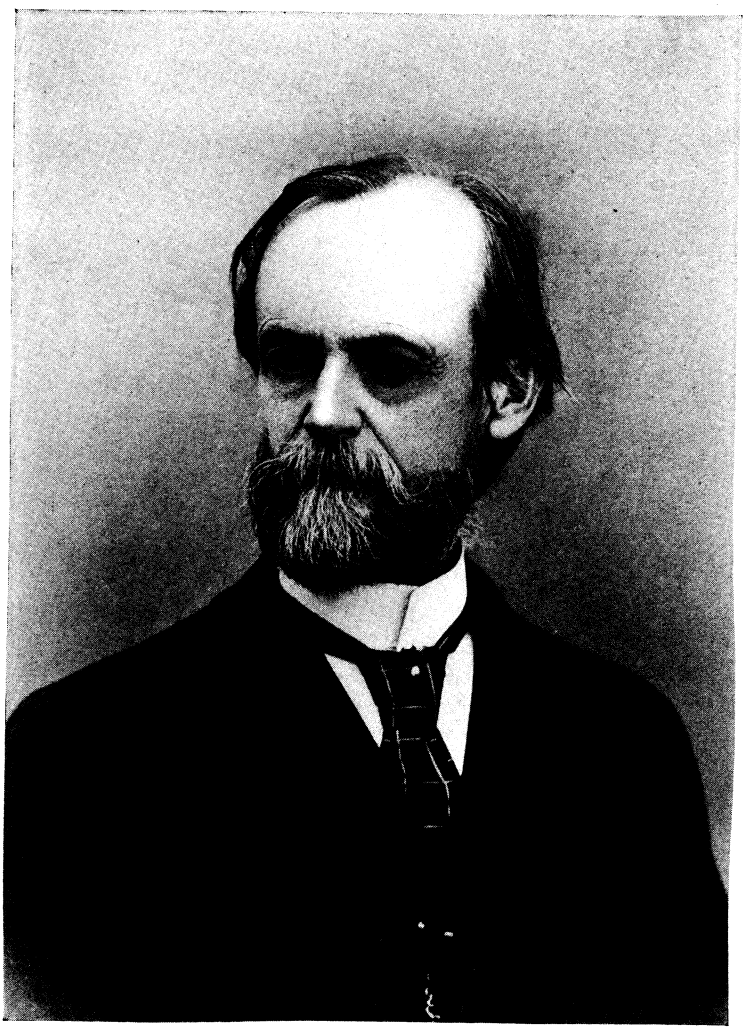
he was one of the color guard. He was taken prisoner at Thompson Station, Tennessee, March 5, 1863, and confined for a time in Libby prison.

When hostilities had ceased and the country no longer needed his aid Mr. White returned home with a creditable military record, joining his wife in Bethel, Branch county. He afterward followed the carpenter's trade there until 1871, when he removed to Coldwater and accepted a clerkship in the dry goods store of W. S. Allen, with whom he remained for a year. Subsequently he was with Rodman Brothers for six years and then embarked in merchandising on his own account as proprietor of a grocery store, which he conducted for ten years under the firm name of G. M. White & Company. He then sold out and since that time has given his attention largely to his public duties. In April, 1891, he was elected justice of the peace and has served continuously in that office to the present time, being now the oldest justice in years of consecutive service in the city. He has also been notary public since February, 1890, and he is likewise engaged in the insurance business. He has also held the office of supervisor from the first ward for two terms, was alderman from the first ward for one term and was school inspector of Bethel and highway commissioner in the same township for four years.

Mr. and Mrs. White have one daughter, Nellie E., who is now the wife of W. F. Taylor, of Coldwater. He belongs to Butterworth Post No. 109, G. A. R., and was quartermaster for fifteen years, in which position he is still serving. He is likewise a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and is now serving for the seventh term as its financier. He belongs to the National Protective Legion, and for the third term is occupying the position of president of the local society. Identified with the Methodist Episcopal church, he is connected with various lines of the church activity, and for four years has held the office of financial secretary, and for several years has been a member of the board of stewards. His political allegiance has ever been given to the Republican party. For sixty-two years he has lived in Branch county, and his life has ever been worthy of public regard, his warmest friends being numbered among those who have known him from his youth to the present time. Great changes have occurred during this period, and his mind forms a connecting link between the primitive past and the progressive present.

NOAH P. LOVERIDGE.

Hon. Noah P. Loveridge, deceased, at one time judge of the fifteenth judicial district of Michigan and a prominent member of the bar, was born in New Milford, Litchfield county, Connecticut, June 18, 1826, and was the seventh in the family of fourteen children born to Erastus and Ruth Ann (Cary) Loveridge, who were also natives of Connecticut and representatives of old New England families. The father was the owner of a cotton factory and in his youth Noah had to assist his father in the management of the business. He remained in his native town until twenty years of age and while not occupied with the duties of the schoolroom worked in the mill. Am-



Noah P. Loveridge

bitious for an education, while employed in the mill he studied English and Latin grammar, keeping his books always near him, and at the same time managing the labors of a number of the operatives in the factory. He succeeded in completing an academic education under the instruction of the famous tutor, Frederick Gunn, whose school was frequently designated as "The Gunnery."

Upon leaving home, at the age of twenty years, Judge Loveridge began teaching school in New Jersey, and during the first year devoted his leisure hours to the study of Latin and geometry. He then took up Blackstone and determining to become a member of the legal profession he entered the National Law School at Ballston Spa, near Saratoga, New York. He studied law and taught alternately until 1851, when going to New York city he completed his law studies in the office and under the direction of Judge Curtis, being admitted to the bar in the city of Brooklyn, in the spring of 1852.

Judge Loveridge then opened an office in Cuba, New York, where he practiced law until his removal to the west in 1866, in which year he took up his residence in Coldwater, where he gave his undivided attention to his law practice until 1882, in which year, at the request of Mr. Teller, secretary of the interior under President Arthur, he went to Washington, D. C., where for two years he was engaged in writing opinions in relation to railroad grants for Mr. Teller. President Arthur then appointed him United States deputy commissioner of pensions, which position he filled until 1885, when he returned to Coldwater and resumed the practice of law. In the early autumn of 1886 he visited Europe and in the fall of the same year he was elected judge of the fifteenth judicial district of the circuit court, assuming the duties of the office in January, 1887. His decisions were strictly fair and impartial, being based upon the equity of the case and a comprehensive knowledge of the principles of jurisprudence. His record as a judge was in harmony with his record as a man and lawyer,—distinguished by integrity and a masterful grasp of every question which was presented for solution.

His early political support was given to the Democracy, but on account of the attitude of the party on the currency questions he left its ranks and from 1878 until his death was a stalwart Republican.

Judge Loveridge was married, in 1854, at Mendham, New Jersey, to Miss Marietta King Vance, a daughter of Elias and Abigail (Homan) Vance. She was born in New Jersey, December 25, 1829, and by this marriage became the mother of five children: Livingston L., who was born at Cuba, New York, August 20, 1855, and died in 1895; H. C., who resides at Coldwater; Walter, who died in infancy; Ernest H., who also resides in Coldwater; and Frederick H., who resides in Chicago. Mrs. Noah P. Loveridge still survives her husband and resides in Coldwater.

Judge Loveridge died June 26, 1900. His talents, his professional ability, his devotion to the general welfare, and above all his personal worth had given him a position in public regard second to none. He was a distinguished lawyer, whose fame was known far beyond the limits of his home locality, and his name is now on the roll of honored dead of Branch county.

H. C. LOVERIDGE.

Henry C. Loveridge, oldest surviving son of the late Judge Noah P. Loveridge, was born August 13, 1856, and is now numbered among the leading lawyers of southern Michigan. He is a graduate of the Coldwater high school. He was graduated in 1880 from Trinity College at Hartford, Connecticut, and studied law in the office of Loveridge and Barlow at Coldwater, being admitted to practice in 1883. He has since practiced in Coldwater, being for a time associated with H. H. Barlow, and with his father from the latter's retirement from the bench until his death. Mr. Loveridge has devoted himself to his professional interests with high success. He has been connected with the city school board as president of the board, and also has served as city attorney. He is a member of the Episcopal church and has been a member of the vestry for a number of years.

Mr. Loveridge married, in Coldwater, in September, 1893, Miss Jessie Moore, daughter of Colonel O. H. Moore. They have two children, Sallie M. and Homan Livingston.

SAMUEL POLLOCK.

Among the men of the past and present who have contributed to the substantial improvement of Coldwater, Samuel Pollock, now deceased, was numbered. He was born in Ireland and spent the days of his boyhood and youth in that land. About 1848, however, he bade adieu to home, friends and the green Isle of Erin and sailed for the new world, making his way first to Canada. He afterward went to Nebraska in the employ of the United States government, and while in the west was engaged in the construction of Fort Leavenworth and Fort Kearney. He also spent some time in Missouri, working at the carpenter's trade, with which he had become familiar in early life. His residence in Coldwater dated from 1861, and here he again secured carpenter work, being identified with building operations in this city until his removal to Cleveland, Ohio, in the '60s. There he resided until 1881, when he returned to Coldwater, and here he embarked in the lumber business, which he purchased from Henry T. Smith. He then conducted his lumber yard until his death, and in 1895 he admitted his son, Charles A. Pollock, to a partnership under the firm style of Pollock & Son. The business is still carried on under this name although the life labors of the father were ended in death March 29, 1900.

Samuel Pollock was united in marriage to Miss Sarah J. Peet, a native of England, in which country she was reared. She still survives her husband and they became the parents of two daughters and three sons, two of whom died in infancy, the daughters being Minnie, the wife of W. M. Brown, of Coldwater, and Jessie, at home.

Charles A. Pollock was born in Cleveland, Ohio, June 18, 1872, and was nine years of age when his father returned to Coldwater, where he acquired the greater part of his education in the public schools. He was married in 1895 to Miss Ellen L. Spalding, a daughter of Charles A. Spalding, of

Coldwater, and they now have two children, Rosamond and Winnifred. Charles A. Pollock has spent the greater part of his life in this city, and is not only well known in commercial circles, but is also a valued representative of the Order of Foresters and the Masonic fraternity, having attained the Knight Templar degree in the latter. He is likewise a member of the Episcopal church and is now serving as vestryman. His interest in the welfare of Coldwater is deep and sincere and has led to his active support of many measures for the public good. In his business he has attained a creditable position and is now in control of the leading lumber trade of the city.

Samuel Pollock was a Republican in his political views, interested in the welfare of the party and anxious for the adoption of its principles. He kept well informed on all the questions and issues of the day and was especially helpful in matters of local progress, endorsing all progressive movements which owed their existence to a desire for permanent good and upbuilding of the county. Although an adopted son no native born citizen of America was more loyal to its institutions or to the republican form of government. He never had occasion to regret the determination to make a home in the new world, for he found here the business opportunities he sought, and by the utilization of the advantages which surrounded him he advanced from an humble financial position to one of affluence, commanding at the same time the unqualified regard of his fellow men because of his fidelity to a high standard of commercial ethics.

JOHN R. CHAMPION.

John R. Champion, three times mayor of Coldwater and a leading and prominent member of the Branch county bar, was born near Ithaca, New York, January 12, 1836, his parents being Reuben J. and Eliza (Cross) Champion, both of whom were natives of New York, whence they came to Branch county, Michigan, in 1836, settling in Coldwater, where the father engaged in merchandising for a few years. He afterward became identified with industrial pursuits, but conducted a milling business, being the builder and for many years the operator of what was known as the Black Hawk mill. Eventually he sold the plant and removed to Indiana, but after a brief residence in that state he returned to Coldwater, here spending his remaining days, his death occurring during the period of the Civil war, when he was about seventy years of age. His wife had preceded him to the home beyond by several years. He was a Democrat in his political allegiance, but afterward became a staunch advocate of Republican principles. By his first wife he had seven children, and by his second marriage to Delia Conger he had one daughter.

John R. Champion, a son of the first marriage, was reared in Coldwater and attended its public schools, thus acquiring his more specifically literary education. His law studies were pursued in the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where he remained a student until after the inauguration of the Civil war, when he became an aid on the staff of the inspector general. Following the close of hostilities he engaged in merchandising for a short time in

Nashville, Tennessee, but soon returned to his old home in Coldwater. Prior to the outbreak of hostilities between the north and the south he had been admitted to the bar and finally entered upon the practice of law in this city, to which profession he has since devoted his time and energies. An excellent presence and earnest effort, marked strength of character, a thorough grasp of the law and the ability to accurately apply its principles made him an effective and successful advocate and insured him equal rank with other distinguished members of the Branch county bar.

Active and prominent in community affairs Mr. Champion has served three times as mayor of Coldwater, elected to the office in 1874, 1875 and 1880. Herein he exercised his official prerogatives in support of all measures tending to promote the substantial improvement and welfare of the city and his efforts were resultant factors in public progress. He has served on his city board of education and on the library board and was also prosecuting attorney. He acted as a member of the central board of control for two and a half years, and has been active in political circles as an advocate of the Democracy through the greater period of his residence in Coldwater.

Mr. Champion has been married twice and has two children, Charles U. and A. Sydney, the latter with the Westinghouse Company, of New York.

Mr. Champion is one of the well-known residents of Coldwater, and his position in legal, political and social circles is an enviable one, accorded him in recognition of his capability at the bar, his fitness for leadership in molding public thought and action and his sterling personal characteristics.

CHARLES U. CHAMPION.

Charles U. Champion, practicing law in Coldwater, was born in this city October 13, 1864, a son of John R. Champion, whose life record is given above. At the usual age he entered the public schools, passing through the consecutive grades until he was graduated from the high school with the class of 1885. Determining to engage in the practice of the profession which claims his father's time and energies, he matriculated in the law department of the University of Michigan, and was graduated in 1888. Since that time he has practiced in his native city with his father under the firm style of Champion & Champion, and they have gained a large and distinctively representative clientage. He served from 1896 until 1900 as prosecuting attorney, and in the trial of cases earnest effort, close application and the exercise of his native talents have won him creditable prestige. He is a Democrat in his political views, unfaltering in his advocacy of the party, and untiring in his efforts to promote its growth and insure its success.

In 1892 Mr. Champion was married to Miss Maud Wheeler, and they have three sons, John W., Paul U. and Charles S. Mr. Champion is a Master Mason and a member of the Episcopal church, and for fourteen years he has served on the library board of Coldwater. His entire life having been passed in this city he is well known, and his character is indicated by the fact that his stanchest friends are those with whom he has been acquainted from his boyhood days.

ARTHUR G. HOLBROOK.

Arthur G. Holbrook, engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery in Coldwater, is a native of Tennessee, his birth having occurred in Nashville, October 6, 1866. He is a son of George and Estelle G. (Gilbert) Holbrook, the former a native of Coldwater and the latter of Monroe county, Michigan. His paternal grandfather, Silas A. Holbrook, was a pioneer merchant of Coldwater, to which place he came about 1832 from New York, his native state. George Holbrook was a soldier of the Civil war, serving as lieutenant with Battery F of the First Michigan Light Artillery. He joined the army in 1861, and continued with that command for three years. He afterward located in Nashville, Tennessee, where he remained until about 1871, being employed in a bank in this city. In the year mentioned he came north to Chicago, where he died on the 27th of May, 1876. He was also connected with the banking business in the latter city. His wife, long surviving him, passed away in Coldwater, September 27, 1902, having returned soon after her husband's death.

Dr. Holbrook as a lad of about ten years came to Coldwater, and he has since remained here. He continued his education in the public schools, passing through successive grades until he had completed the high school course by graduation with the class of 1887. He afterward secured a position in the drug department of the store owned by E. R. Clark & Company, with whom he remained for several years, and then entered the University of Michigan, spending three years as a student in the medical department. He continued his studies in the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia, and was graduated in 1899, since which time he has practiced in Coldwater. He belongs to the Branch County Medical Society, the Tri-State Medical Society, and the Michigan State Medical Association, and of the last named he is now treasurer.

Dr. Holbrook was married in 1892 to Miss Luella M. Treat, who died in 1893, leaving one son—George Treat. In 1899 he married Mabel F. White of Hartford, Connecticut, and they have two children—Phyllis and Shirley E. Dr. Holbrook exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Republican party, but is without political aspiration for himself. He holds membership in the Presbyterian church, and is interested in its work and the extension of its influence. The greater part of his time and attention, however, are demanded by his professional duties, which are constantly growing in volume and importance until he now ranks with the foremost representatives of the medical fraternity in Branch county.

EDWARD D. STANTON.

The history of those who have been and are prominently connected with farming interests in Sherwood township would be incomplete without mention of Edward D. Stanton, deceased, who made a creditable record as a most successful business man, there being many characteristics of his business career that are worthy of emulation, and which awaken as well respect and

admiration. He was a native of Sennett, Cayuga county, New York, born on the 10th of August, 1833. His father, John Stanton, was a native of Onondaga county, New York, born December 10, 1799. Having arrived at years of maturity he wedded Susan Waldron, who was born in Rockland county, New York, in 1798. Following their marriage they established their home in Sennett, Cayuga county, whence they removed to Michigan in June, 1839, their destination being Branch county. Here the father secured a tract of land and began the development of a farm, whereon he made his home until his life's labors were ended in death, November 20, 1851. His widow afterward went to live with her daughter in Scipio township, Hillsdale county, Michigan, where she passed away January 6, 1868.

Edward Stanton was the seventh in order of birth in a family of ten children, four sons and six daughters. He was but three years of age when brought to Branch county by his parents, and upon the family homestead he was reared, while in the district schools he acquired his education. His father instructed him concerning the value of industry, perseverance and integrity in the active affairs of life, and the lessons which were thus impressed upon his mind in youth bore rich fruit in later years. His educational privileges were limited, for that was the era of the log school house with its primitive furnishings and methods of instruction that were almost equally crude, but Mr. Stanton gained good business experience and a natural fund of common sense made him a citizen of worth, while reading and observation kept him in touch with modern thought. In fact he became one of the well-informed men of his locality, and in his business career met with a gratifying measure of prosperity. Throughout his active business career Mr. Stanton followed general agricultural pursuits, and controlling the work of the fields year after year he prospered, making investment in property until he was the owner of six hundred and ninety acres of valuable land in Branch county, of which four hundred acres have been placed under a high state of cultivation. He was recognized as one of the prominent agriculturists of his community, following modern methods and using the latest improved machinery in the care of his fields. He also raised high grades of stock, and everything about his place was kept in excellent condition. He became a stockholder in the Farmers' National Bank, and about two years after its organization was chosen one of its directors, in which capacity he was retained until his death.

On the 5th of December, 1865, occurred the marriage of Mr. Stanton and Miss Susan Atwood, the wedding being celebrated in Coldwater. The parents are Elisha and Elvira (Demmon) Atwood, who were natives of Connecticut and New Hampshire, and following their marriage removed to Genesee county, New York, while later they became residents of Henry county, Ohio. The year 1848 witnessed their arrival in Michigan, at which time they took up their abode in Sherwood township, Branch county. Later they removed to Union township. Their family numbers nine children, five sons and four daughters, of whom Mrs. Stanton was the fourth in order of birth, her natal place being Genesee county, New York, her natal day, September

19, 1837. She attended the district schools in her girlhood and was trained in home duties which well qnalified her to preside capably over her own home at the time of her marriage. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Stanton were born three children: John A.; Elvira E., now the wife of Fred Calkins of Matteson township; and Mis, the wife of J. Ara Annis, of Sherwood township.

Mr. Stanton was a supporter of the Republican party from its organization. In fact his first presidential ballot was cast for its first candidate and he labored loyally to promote the success of the party and to secure the adoption of its principles. He held the office of highway commissioner but was never a politician in the sense of office seeking, preferring to devote his time and energies to his business affairs, wherein he met with creditable success.

EDWARD B. RANSFORD.

April 15, 1905, there died in Quincy township a citizen who had been identified with this county for over half a century, and whose career possesses not only the interest which always belongs to such length of life, but furthermore the regard which arises from a wholesome usefulness and integrity of character.

Edward B. Ransford was born in the state of New York in 1828, so that he was seventy-seven years old at the date of his death. He was of New England stock, a son of Aruna and Lydia (Cass) Ransford, whom he accompanied to Michigan in 1844 and located two and a half miles south of Jonesville, Hillsdale county, where both parents died. Reared on a farm and attending the schools of the county, Edward B. Ransford followed agricultural pursuits throughout his active career, and was almost uniformly successful in his endeavors. Coming to Branch county in 1853, he bought eighty acres in section four of Quincy township, and on that homestead, now linked by so many ties of association with his life, he continued to make his residence until death took him in the fulness of years and maturity of work. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, was affiliated with the Masons, and in politics was a Republican, being proud of his stanch advocacy of the principles of the Grand Old Party, which he had upheld so many years. At the organization of Quincy Grange No. 152 in 1873, he and his wife became charter members, and the latter is now the only active living charter member of the organization. Edward B. Ransford was one of eight children.

He married Frances E. Churchill, who was born in Columbia county, New York, in 1828, and, surviving her late husband, is now one of the esteemed old ladies of her community. Her parents were William Henry and Fanny (Gregory) Churchill, the former of New York state and the latter of Connecticut, and both members of the Methodist church. The Churchill family moved to Michigan in 1844, locating at Jonesville, and in 1851 came to Branch county and located in Quincy township, where the father continued his vocation of farming, but for some time before his death lived retired in Quincy. He was a Democrat. Mrs. Ransford is the oldest of their five children, the others being: Charles, deceased; George, who served in the commissary department during the Civil war and is now a resident

of San Antonio, Texas; Susan, wife of John Nichols, a farmer at East Chattanooga, Tennessee; and Robert, a resident of Quincy, who was a soldier in the Civil war, going from New York. Mrs. Ransford is a member of the Methodist church.

Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Ransford: Alfred, now deceased, was a graduate of Valparaiso College and was a successful school teacher, being principal of the Quincy schools, and also of the schools at Kaneville and St. Charles, Illinois; Julia is the wife of Nelson Curtis, a farmer of Butler township; Charles is connected with a carriage factory at Flint, Michigan; George is a farmer in Butler township; Frank lives on the old homestead; and Susan married A. E. Lampman, a farmer of Butler township.

HENRY SEYMOUR.

Henry Seymour, a retired grocery merchant who in public office demonstrated his loyalty to the general welfare of Branch county, was born in Oneida county, New York, August 15, 1837. His father, Constantine A. Seymour, was a native of the Empire state and was reared in Oneida county. He was a tailor by occupation and in 1844 he came westward to Michigan, settling in the northern part of Branch county, where he continued to carry on tailoring. His political allegiance was given to the Republican party from the time of its organization and he was elected and served as township treasurer. He married Lucy M. Thayer, also a native of New York and his death occurred when he was seventy-three years of age, while his wife died when about sixty-eight years of age. Thev were the parents of four children, three sons and a daughter, all of whom reached years of maturity. The daughter is now deceased, but the sons are all living.

Henry Seymour, the second child and second son, was seven years old when brought by his parents to Branch county and was reared and educated in Union township. In early life he learned the tinner's trade which he followed for about eighteen years. His business pursuits, however, were interrupted when in 1861 he espoused the cause of the union and joined the boys in blue of Company D, First Michigan Light Artillery, with which he served for three years. He was often in the thickest of the fight and he participated in the engagements at Stone River, Pittsburgh Landing, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and many others, receiving an honorable discharge at Louisville, Kentucky, at the close of his term of enlistment September 17, 1864. At the battle of Pittsburgh Landing he was knocked down by the force of a solid shot striking the ground in front of him, a close call for his life.

Mr. Seymour then returned home and resumed business in Branch county. He was for twenty-one years a grocer of Union City, having a well appointed store and receiving a liberal patronage. That he met with success in his undertakings is indicated by the fact that he so long directed his energies to one line of trade. He also gave some time to discharge of public duties which were entrusted to him by the vote of his fellow townsmen. He was elected in 1899 to the office of county treasurer for a term of two years and in 1901 was re-elected, serving until 1903, when he retired from office

as he had entered it, "With the confidence and good will of all concerned." He was also supervisor of Union township for thirteen years and was town treasurer for two years. He has been a life long Republican and has taken an active and helpful interest in public affairs, his labors being far reaching and beneficial in their influence.

In 1865 Mr. Seymour was united in marriage to Miss Carrie E. Tutherly, and they became the parents of two sons and a daughter: John C., who is now a dry goods merchant at Sherwood, Branch county; George H., who is a cashier of the Merchants' Bank at Sherwood; and Cora E., who is a graduate of the piano department of the Michigan State Normal, and is now a teacher of music and drawing.

Mr. Seymour belongs to Corbin Post, No. 88, G. A. R., and attended the Grand Encampment at Columbus, Ohio. He is likewise a member of the Masonic lodge of Union City and the Eastern Star. While now practically retired from active business life he is still a stockholder and director in the Union City National Bank. He has lived for sixty-one years in Branch county and has a very wide and favorable acquaintance here. Endowed by nature with a strong character he was so surrounded in his childhood that his latent powers were developed and strengthened and he became a successful business man. Today he is not more honored on account of the enviable position which he has occupied in business circles and the success he has gained than by reason of his fidelity to duty in public office, his loyalty to his country at the time of the Civil war and on account of the many deeds of his life which have ever been quietly and unostentatiously performed.

CHARLES D. RATHBURN.

Charles D. Rathburn, living on section sixteen, Sherwood township, where he is extensively and successfully engaged in general farming, is a native of Ashtabula county, Ohio, born April 9, 1842. He is a son of Joseph and Sarah O. (Brown) Rathburn, the former a native of Genesee county, New York, and the latter of Kingsville, Ashtabula county, Ohio. The mother died in Michigan at the ripe old age of eighty-two years. In their family were five daughters and four sons: Olivia, now deceased; Francis M., who has also passed away; Charles D.; Pearson J., who is represented elsewhere in this work; Electa, the wife of James Johnson, of Isabella county, Michigan; Deborah, deceased; Ellen E., the wife of Ed Ward, of Alabama; Edward R., who is a twin of Ellen and lives in Sherwood township; and Marietta R., the wife of Frank H. Lee, of Mount Pleasant, Michigan.

Charles D. Rathburn, the eldest son and third child of the family, passed his youth in Ashtabula county with the exception of a period of two years spent in Iowa. He was provided with good educational privileges, pursuing a course at Kingsville Academy in his native county and later he gave his attention to farming, which he followed in his native state until 1877, when he came to Branch county, Michigan, settling upon a farm which he now owns and at the present time is being operated by his sons. During his resi-

dence in this county he has practiced veterinary surgery, having prepared himself for the profession and passed an examination at Lansing, Michigan, before the veterinary board, and registered in Branch county. His skill in this connection has rendered him a prominent representative of the calling, and he is a member of the Wolverine Veterinary Association. He has a farm of one hundred and sixty-seven acres which is well improved and supplied with many modern equipments and accessories, so that it is now a valuable property, and to the place he gives his supervision, although his sons perform the active work of the fields.

Mr. Rathburn was married in Kingsville township, Ashtabula county, Ohio, June 15, 1865, to Miss Alice C. Fox, a daughter of Alvin and Vesta C. (Ward) Fox, who was born in Kingsville, Ashtabula county, Ohio, May 22, 1840. They have two children: Marion A., who married Hannah Russell and resides upon his father's farm; and Lillie, the wife of George A. Drumm, a resident of Sherwood township.

Mr. Rathburn, desirous for the best interests of his county, has co-operated in public affairs to the best of his ability—and that ability is of no mean order. He has filled the office of township treasurer for three terms, and was supervisor for one term, and whether in office or out of it he is always a champion for public good. In politics he is a Democrat, and was elected to office in face of a normal Republican majority, so that the election was proof of his personal popularity and the confidence reposed in him by his fellow townsmen. For twenty-five years he has been treasurer of the Grange and is very active in its movement. He was also school director, and has been assessor the greater part of the time since coming to Branch county. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity at Athens, and is well known in this portion of Michigan, where his activity in business affairs, his co-operation in public measures and his genuine worth of character have made him prominent. He is an excellent representation of a purely self-made man, for all that he has has been honestly acquired by his untiring effort, so that his example should well serve as a lesson and incentive to the younger generation.

WILLARD ADOLPH.

Willard Adolph, a representative farmer of Union township, living in section eleven, was born in Richardbegh, Bohemia, on the 7th of July, 1846, and was but ten years of age when brought by his parents to America, at which time the family home was established about three miles northwest of the city of Coldwater. There they remained for a year and then removed to Girard township, where Mr. Adolph of this review was reared to manhood. He worked in the fields on the home place, gaining a practical knowledge of farming methods that well fitted him to carry on agricultural pursuits on his own account after he had attained man's estate.

On the 2nd of November, 1869, Mr. Adolph was married in Girard township to Miss Anna Hoffman and took up his abode in Batavia township, where he remained for about fifteen years, when he sold that property and bought eighty acres where he now resides. He added to this until he has

a valuable farm property of one hundred and eighty acres which is well improved. Most of the improvements are the work of his hands and his labors have made him one of the substantial citizens of the community. Realizing that labor is the basis of all success, he has carried on his work persistently and energetically, his efforts being guided by sound judgment and keen business discernment.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Adolph has been blessed with three children: Anna, now the wife of Clarence Olney, a farmer of Union township; Willie, who died at the age of twenty-two years; and Edward, who also carried on agricultural pursuits in Union township. Mr. Adolph has been a resident of Branch county for a half century and has done his full share in the work of improvement and progress. Seeing the needs of his community, he has co-operated in many movements for the general good. In politics he has been a life-long Republican, but has preferred to do his duty to township and county as a private citizen rather than an officeholder. He is one of the loyal adopted sons of America, interested in her institutions, devoted to her principles and active in support of the measures which he deems will promote local advancement and the national welfare.

J. H. ANDERSON, M. D.

Dr. J. H. Anderson, successfully practicing medicine in Union City and vicinity, is a native son of Michigan, his birth having occurred in St. Joseph county, January 3, 1867. His parents were George and Rebecca (Garnett) Anderson, the former a native of northern Ireland and the latter of England. Both came to America in early life and the father, establishing his home in St. Joseph county, engaged in business as a hardware merchant at Constantine. He died when his son, Dr. Anderson, was only three years old and the mother afterward returned to her native country accompanied by her family. She there remained until 1881, when she again came to the new world, settling at Constantine, Michigan, and there Dr. Anderson continued his education, completing the high school course with the class of 1884. His tastes led him into professional life and, determining upon the practice of medicine and surgery, he then entered the Michigan State University at Ann Arbor, completing the medical course by graduation in 1888. He located for practice at Girard, where he remained for nine years, and in 1901 he removed to Union City, where he has since followed his chosen calling. In this profession advancement depends entirely upon individual merit. One must master the principles of medicine and surgery and must accurately apply his knowledge to the needs of his patients. Dr. Anderson is most careful in the diagnosis of a case and his judgment is seldom at fault in anticipating the outcome of a disease.

While living in Girard Dr. Anderson was married to Miss Harriet Granger, a daughter of Frank Granger. She died in 1897, leaving two sons, with whom Dr. Anderson returned to his old home in Constantine, there remaining until his removal to Union City in 1901. For his second wife he chose Minerva Beardsley. His sons are F. Garnett and Granger,

who are still at home. Dr. Anderson is prominent fraternally, belonging to the Masonic lodge at Union City, the Chapter at Union City, the Knights Templar Commandery at Coldwater and to the Knights of the Maccabees and the Improved Order of Foresters. In the line of his profession he is connected with the state, tri-state and county medical societies.

J. HARLAN DAVIS.

J. Harlan Davis, who is engaged in general agricultural pursuits on section three, Girard township, was born in Cazenovia, Madison county, New York, April 24, 1844. His paternal grandfather was Benjamin Davis, a representative of a family that was established in Massachusetts in early colonial days. Joseph Davis, the father of J. Harlan Davis, was born in Massachusetts, November 18, 1800, and was the first of the family to leave that state, where his ancestors had lived for so many years. He went to Cazenovia, New York, soon after his marriage to Mary Adams, who was a member of the celebrated Adams family of Massachusetts, which furnished two Presidents to the United States, several Governors and many other distinguished men and women. Mary Adams was born in Shutesbury, Massachusetts, and became the wife of Joseph Davis in that state in 1824. Their married life was spent almost entirely in Cazenovia, New York, where Mr. Davis died in 1856, his wife passing away in 1846. They had a large family of children, eleven in number, nine sons and two daughters. One died in infancy, but the remainder reached adult age, and six of the sons came to Michigan. Seymour entered the army in 1861 in the Sixth Michigan Infantry and died at Marshall, Michigan, in the service in 1862. William H. was also a veteran of the Civil war, and is still living. Two brothers, Charles and Frank, are both deceased. One of the sisters survives.

J. Harlan Davis spent his boyhood and youth in and near Cazenovia, New York, and acquired what in those early days was a most liberal education. He attended the common schools and afterward the Oneida Conference Seminary, subsequent to which time he pursued a course in the commercial school at Syracuse, New York, where he was graduated with the class of 1862. He taught school in the Empire State through the following winter and in the spring of 1863 went to Amherst, Massachusetts, where he worked for two years in a machine shop, his employers being extensive manufacturers of wheels. Seeking a home in the middle West he made his way to St. Paul, Minnesota, when that city contained a population of but fourteen thousand and Minneapolis only eight thousand. He spent the summer prospecting there and while on his western trip he visited for a few months with relatives in Marshall, Michigan, thus becoming impressed with the advantages of the Wolverine state. On returning to Cazenovia, New York, he remained there until 1868, and then came again to Michigan, where he has since resided. Here he first engaged in farming with his brother, William H. Davis, in Tekonsha township, Calhoun county, and for eleven years he spent the winter seasons in teaching school in different portions of Branch and Calhoun counties, being regarded as a most capable and efficient edu-

cator. Thirty-five years ago he purchased the farm of ninety-five acres on section three, Girard township, just over the border line in Branch county, and here he has since resided. He has improved the place with good buildings and brought the land up to a high state of cultivation, so that he now has a splendid farm that annually returns to him gratifying harvests as a reward for the care and labor he has bestowed upon it.

Mr. Davis was married in 1874 to Miss Emma Dean of Tekonsha and their married life, which was a particularly happy one, was terminated by the death of Mrs. Davis, April 30, 1890. Three sons and three daughters were born unto them, the daughters being: Clara E., Anna M. and Olive, who are living with their father on the old homestead. Of the sons, Russell is holding a responsible position with the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad company; Ward is employed in the electrical line in Chicago; and Burt is learning the builder's trade and architect's profession in Chicago.

Mr. Davis is an ardent Republican, never faltering in his allegiance to the party, which he believes embodies the best principles of good government in its platform. He was supervisor of Girard township for thirteen consecutive years, beginning in 1883, and in 1896 was chairman of the Board, and in 1879 served as superintendent of schools in the township, while for several years he was school inspector. As a member of the Board of Supervisor he acted on many important committees, including the building committee during the erection of the present handsome county courthouse at Coldwater. He has ever been the champion of progress and improvement along practical and substantial lines and his co-operation has been a factor in many movements that have resulted beneficially to the county.

LEON A. JOHNSON.

Leon A. Johnson, who is filling the office of township supervisor and makes his home in Union City, was born in Union township, Branch county, April 16, 1867. He is the eldest of three sons born unto Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson, prominent farming people of Union township. He was reared upon the old family homestead, began his education in the district schools and afterward entered the high school of Union City, from which he was graduated in 1886. He also spent one year in the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso, after which he went to Nebraska, establishing his home in Cambridge, Furnas county. There he engaged in teaching school for a time but afterward returned to Michigan and taught in the schools of Union City. He was elected school inspector for two terms, covering four years, and he has also held the office of township treasurer for two terms. Since 1898 he has been a clerk in a store. He was appointed to fill a vacancy in the office of township supervisor as the successor of Henry Seymour when the latter was elected county treasurer. He filled out the unexpired term and then in 1905 was elected to the office on the Republican ticket. He has always been identified with the party, is active in its local work and his opinions carry weight in its councils.

On the 25th of November, 1891, Mr. Johnson was united in marriage

to Miss Bertha C. Sawin, a daughter of M. E. and Celinda (Gardiner) Sawin. Her birth occurred in Matteson township, Branch county, March 28, 1868, and she was educated in the public schools, being a graduate of the high school of Union City. She too followed teaching for a time, both in Missouri and Michigan and had the ability to impart clearly and readily to others the knowledge that she had acquired. Mr. Johnson is a member of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to the lodge and the chapter at Union City. He is likewise a member of Union City council, R. and S. M., and he and his wife are members of the Order of the Eastern Star.

CHARLES H. HALL.

Charles H. Hall, engaged in the cultivation and improvement of a good farm on section twenty-eight, Sherwood township, is one of Michigan's native sons and possesses the enterprise so typical of the middle west. He was born in Lee township, Calhoun county, December 7, 1846. His father, Jesse Hall, was a native of England, and when a young man came to America, locating in New York, where he was married to Miss Maria Henion, a native of that state. He removed to Calhoun county, Michigan, about 1842, becoming a pioneer resident of that locality. Securing land, he devoted his energies to farming there until 1856, when he took up his abode in Branch county, securing a farm in Sherwood township, about two and a half miles north of the place upon which his son Charles now resides. The land which he there owned he placed under a good state of cultivation and was one of the leading and influential agriculturists of his community. Crossing the plains to California at an early day he spent about three years in the Golden State, after which he returned to his farming pursuits in Michigan, and was thus engaged up to the time of his death, which occurred in his forty-ninth year. He was a school director, interested in the cause of education and also desiring the development of the county along all lines of material, mental and moral progress. His wife lived to be about sixty years of age. Of their four children one died in early youth, while the others reached adult age.

Charles H. Hall, now the only living representative of the family, was the second child and eldest son and was but ten years old when his parents came to Branch county. His youth was therefore largely passed in Sherwood township, and his education was that afforded by the public schools. He assisted his father in the improvement of the home farm until 1864, when at the age of eighteen years he offered his services to the government in defense of the Union and was assigned to Company F, Eleventh Michigan Infantry, with which he served until the close of hostilities in 1865. He then returned to the farm in Sherwood township and has been the owner of the old homestead since seventeen years of age. He resided thereon until 1890, when he embarked in the livery business in Union City, but after two years he sold his barn and again took up his abode upon his farm. He still owns the old homestead of forty acres, but has added to it by purchase until within its boundaries are now comprised one hundred and ten acres. For-

merly his landed possessions were much more extensive, for he had four hundred acres, but one-half of this he has sold, still retaining possession of two hundred acres. As a farmer he has been practical in all of his work, systematic in the development of the fields and by the rotation of crops and the careful supervision of the work he has kept his farm in excellent condition, the fields being very productive.

Mr. Hall has been married twice. In 1877 he wedded Hattie Bennett, who died, leaving two children, Minnie and Charles Ray. He wedded his present wife in 1899. She bore the maiden name of Emma Filson, and was a daughter of James C. and Sarah (Wagner) Filson. Her birth occurred in St. Joseph county, Michigan, September 23, 1876, and she was first married to H. E. Corwin, by whom she had a daughter, Lena Belle. Mr. and Mrs. Hall had three children, Jessie Marie, Mildred Irene and Charles Walter, but the little son died at the age of seven months.

Mr. Hall is now practically living retired, having rented his land. He has been a life-long Republican, interested in political work in his locality and for three years has served as constable. He belongs to Kilbourn Post, No. 2, G. A. R., at Sherwood, and he is well known in the county where he has lived for forty-nine years, so that his mind forms a connecting link between the primitive past and the progressive present. He is a man of much force of character and business acumen and through a long and active life there has naught been said against his integrity nor the worthy purposes which have prompted his actions.

JEFFERSON LOWRY.

Jefferson Lowry, deceased, who was at one time a leading and prosperous farmer of Branch county, was born in Matteson township on the 22d of November, 1844. His boyhood days were spent in his home locality and the public school system of the county afforded him his educational privileges. Throughout his entire life he followed farming and became a successful and prominent agriculturist. His business affairs were conducted in systematic, enterprising manner and through his well directed labor he won a gratifying measure of success.

Mr. Lowry was also well known as a citizen whose aid could be counted upon to further progressive public measures. He always voted with the Republican party and he held various township offices, discharging his duties in a most prompt and capable manner. He was also identified with the Masonic fraternity and in his life exemplified the beneficent spirit of the craft.

On the 21st of November, 1867, Jefferson Lowry was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Jones, who was born in Finley, Hancock county, Ohio, December 13, 1844. Her father, Ambrose Jones, was a native of New York and became one of the early settlers of Hancock county, Ohio, whence he afterward removed to Branch county, Michigan, settling in Sherwood township about 1852. He was a farmer by occupation, successful in his business affairs, and he lived to be about eighty years of age. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Mary Musson, was a native of New York and

lived to be about fifty-nine years of age. They were the parents of eight children, three sons and five daughters, all of whom reached adult age and are now living with the exception of one daughter. Mrs. Lowry is the sixth member of this family. She was a little maiden of eight summers when she came to Branch county with her parents, her girlhood days being spent in Sherwood township, where she has always lived. On the 21st of November, 1867, in Colon, St. Joseph county, Michigan, she gave her hand in marriage to Jefferson Lowry and they became the parents of three sons, but the eldest, Clyde, died at the age of eight months. Lloyd J. married Flora James and is a traveling salesman residing in Chicago. Lynn E. married Anna McIntire and is a barber residing in Centerville, Michigan. The death of the husband and father occurred December 5, 1903, and was the occasion of deep regret not only to his family but also to many friends, for he was a man of genuine worth who deserved and commanded the respect of those with whom he came in contact. Mrs. Lowry is now the owner of the farm of one hundred and thirty-three acres which she carries on herself. She has been a resident of Sherwood township for fifty-two years and has a wide acquaintance in the county. Her farm property is a valuable one, in the midst of which stands a fine brick residence and in the rear are good barns and other substantial outbuildings, while the buildings are surrounded by green fields giving promise of rich harvests. The home is within the corporation limits of Sherwood and Mrs. Lowry has many friends in the village as well as through the outlying districts.

CLARK M. HALL.

Clark M. Hall is a representative of industrial interests in Union City, where he is carrying on a coopering business. He was born in Sullivan county, New Hampshire, November 10, 1846. His parents were Luther and Elizabeth (Russell) Hall, the latter a sister of George Russell of Girard, Michigan, now deceased. Captain George Russell of Coldwater was a son of George Russell. When about ten years of age Mr. Hall went to live with an uncle, R. M. Russell, in Woodstock, Windsor county, Vermont, remaining with him until December, 1863. When he could no longer content himself at home he responded to the country's call for aid, enlisting in the Union army as a private of the Third Vermont Light Battery. He continued with his command until after the close of hostilities, returning to his home in June, 1865. He was a soldier in the truest sense of the word. He was ever ready to do his duty in defense of his country's honor, and he was present at the siege and battles of Petersburg, Virginia, Wilderness, Spottsylvania, North Anna and Cold Harbor. His battery was opposite the line of Petersburg, Virginia, when the great mine explosion occurred, and it was the battery which gave the signal for advance. He was with the command under General Grant in the Army of the Potomac. He attended the Grand Encampments at Boston, Massachusetts, Chicago and Detroit, also at Columbus, Ohio.

On his return home Mr. Hall again took up his abode with his uncle, re-

maining with him until April, 1875, when he came to Union City and purchased his present cooper shop. He has carried on business on the same site for thirty years here, having a good patronage, which keeps him constantly employed and brings to him a gratifying financial return for his labor. Concerning this shop, the following is quoted from one of the local papers:

"The little red school house, so often referred to by those of pioneer days, has found more than its counterpart in the Red Cooper Shop, of this city, by the happy associations and comradeships which center around its old, familiar hearthstone, and which have found expression through the Red Cooper Shop Camp Fire Association. This association was formed a number of years ago and at first membership was confined to old war veterans, but of late years many honorary members have been added, and these enjoy the annual reunions fully as much as do the old comrades. The annual reunion will be held at the customary rendezvous, C. M. Hall's Red Cooper Shop, on Thursday evening, at which time a banquet will be served in true old camp-fire style, consisting of chickens, ducks, spareribs and wild game, roasted before the mammoth fireplace, potatoes baked in the ashes, and cider and home-made wine to wash them down. The evening will be spent in song, story, reminiscence and heart-to-heart confidences."

January 25, 1877, Mr. Hall was united in marriage to Miss Fannie Tucker, a daughter of J. B. Tucker, who was at one time a merchant and miller of Union City and was also vice president of the Union City National Bank at the time of his death. His varied business enterprises, his unremitting diligence and his enterprise constituted him a valued resident here, and he was honored by all who knew him because of his fidelity to manly principles in private life and his close conformity to a high standard of commercial ethics. Mrs. Hall was the second of his three children and was born in Union City, where she obtained her education. She afterward engaged in teaching school here and since her girlhood days has been recognized as a leader in social circles, where true worth and intelligence are recognized as the passports into good society.

Mr. Hall is one of the active workers in Corbin Post, G. A. R., No. 88, in which he has served as commander. He was really the founder of the Corbin Post in Union City, and he has done all possible to make the post a permanent and live organization. He is a sound Republican and cast his first presidential vote for the soldier president, Grant. He is also treasurer of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Association of southwestern Michigan and has served on General Kesey's staff. He was also on the department commandery staff in Detroit in 1891 and his labors have been effective in advancing the cause of the Grand Army of the Republic. He has frequently done equal service on important committees and as officer of the day. He is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, having joined the organization in 1875, his membership being now with the lodge at Coldwater. Mr. and Mrs. Hall are stockholders in the Union City National Bank of Union City, Michigan. Mr. Hall is one whose business career will bear the closest investigation and scrutiny and the period of his residence in Union City, covering thirty years, consti-

tutes the era of its greatest growth and development. At all times his aid could be counted upon to further public progress, and he stands today as one of the representative men of his community.

P. J. RATHBURN.

P. J. Rathburn, supervisor of Sherwood township and a leading farmer living on section twenty, is a native of Ohio, his birth having occurred in Monroe township, Ashtabula county, that state, on the 26th of February, 1844. His father, Joseph Rathburn, was a native of New York and was a farmer by occupation. He died in Delaware county, Iowa, to which place he removed about 1857. He was a son of Joseph Rathburn, a native of Rhode Island and one of the heroes of the Revolutionary war. The mother of our subject bore the maiden name of Sarah O. Brown and was a native of Ohio. Her father was Captain Charles Brown, a sea going man who was master of a vessel for some years. His birth occurred in England. Mrs. Rathburn, surviving her husband for some years, died at the home of her son, P. J. Rathburn, in Sherwood township in her eighty-second year. She had become the mother of nine children, of whom six are yet living.

P. J. Rathburn, the fourth member and third son of this family, was a youth of thirteen years when he accompanied his parents to Iowa, but after the death of the father the family returned to Ohio and thus his youth was largely passed in Ashtabula county. He obtained a common school education and started out in business life on his own account when fifteen years of age, not only providing for his own needs but also aiding in the support of the family. He arrived in Michigan in 1867, at which time he located in Wayne county. In the same year he was married to Miss Margaret Butts, a daughter of George and Maria (Zellers) Butts, formerly of Pennsylvania and early settlers of Ohio, whence they came to Michigan. Mrs. Rathburn was a native of Erie, Pennsylvania. At the time of their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Rathburn located in Mecosta county, Michigan, where he secured a tract of government land and with characteristic energy began the development of this unimproved place. He continued its cultivation for eight years and then sold out, after which he removed to Ionia county, Michigan. The year 1878 witnessed his arrival in Branch county, where he purchased a farm in Sherwood township, upon which he is now living. While in the north of Michigan he was engaged in lumbering and farming, but most of his life has been devoted to general agricultural pursuits and he now has a good tract of land of one hundred and ten acres which is well improved. There are substantial buildings upon the place which are surrounded by well tilled fields and he annually harvests good crops as a reward of his care and labor.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Rathburn have been born five children, a son and four daughters: Nathan, who is living in Mecosta county, is married and has four children, two sons and two daughters, Marjorie O., Herbert N., Harold J. and Mildred; Cora, the wife of W. E. Harrison of Mecosta county, and they have one little son, Wayne P.; Minnie, the wife of Habey Hass

of Newcastle, Pennsylvania; Effie, the wife of O. F. Thornton of Sherwood township, and they have a little daughter, Evelyn; and Ettie, who married William Baker of Sherwood township, and they have two children, Alethea E. and Paul L. Mr. Rathburn has always taken a great interest in the education of his children and three of his daughters have been successful teachers in Branch county. In politics he is a Republican, interested and active in the work of the party, and while in northern Michigan he served as treasurer of his township for many years and in other offices. He has also filled local positions in Branch county, being supervisor for twelve years of Sherwood township. His interest in public affairs has always been of a helpful character and he is regarded as a valued citizen in the community in which he makes his home.

EUGENE ENGLE.

Eugene Engle, a practical and leading farmer living on section one, Sherwood township, was born in Chenango county, New York, September 29, 1845, his parents being John and Julia (Frear) Engle, who were likewise natives of the Empire state, whence they came to Michigan in 1845, settling in Calhoun county. There they lived in the midst of the forest until the father had cleared and improved a farm. It was upon the old farm homestead that Eugene Engle spent the days of his boyhood and youth, being the youngest in a family of eleven children. Like the others, he assisted in the arduous task of developing a new farm and in the public schools obtained his education.

Mr. Engle was married in Tekonsha, Michigan, to Miss Sarah Ensign, a native of Ohio, after which he began farming on his own account, continuing to care for his parents, however, until they were called to their final rest. He then sold his farm in Tekonsha, in 1880, and purchased the place upon which he now resides on section one, Sherwood township, owning here two hundred and thirty-three acres of land, which constitutes one of the best and most attractive farms of the county. It is splendidly equipped, having a fine residence and commodious and substantial barns. Most of the buildings have been erected by him and the place is very modern in its equipments, while the productive soil makes his business profitable, large harvests being gathered annually. In connection with the tilling of the soil Mr. Engle has likewise been extensively engaged in the raising of sheep, having now a flock of about two hundred head on his place. He also raises cattle and is an excellent judge of stock so that he is enabled to make profitable sales.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Engle have been born eleven children and with the exception of one who died at the age of five years, all are yet living, namely: George, Rosa, Sanford, Nellie, Clarence, May, Frances, Edith, Chester and Howard. The daughter Pearl is deceased.

Mr. Engle was a Republican until 1896, when he voted for William Jennings Bryan. He has frequently been solicited to become a candidate for office, but would never accept political honors. He is independent in his views, connected with no church or society, although at one time he was a member of the Farmers' Organization. In 1900 he was called upon to mourn

the loss of his wife, and his daughter May now acts as his housekeeper. The history of mankind is replete with illustration of the fact that it is only under adversity and the stimulus of position that the best and strongest in men are brought out and developed and the life record of Mr. Engle stands in exemplification of this truth, proving conclusively that any individual with a reasonable amount of mental and physical power can attain success if he but has the ambition to put forth his best efforts and the will and manliness to persevere therein, for Mr. Engle at the age of twenty-one years was without a dollar. He had no extraordinary family or pecuniary advantages to aid him, but has battled earnestly and energetically and by indomitable courage and integrity has achieved both character and fortune.

HIRAM CRISSY.

Hiram Crissy, deceased, was a respected citizen of Branch county for many years and his name is now upon the roll of its honored dead. He was born in Binghamton, New York, October 3, 1819, his parents being Abram and Polly Crissy. He was thirteen years of age when he accompanied his father and mother to the West, the family home being established in Marshall county, Michigan, where he was reared amid the wild scenes of frontier life. The Indians were then more numerous in the state than the white settlers and the great forests were uncut. Wild animals of various kinds were seen and wild game could be had in abundance. Mr. Crissy shared with the others in the hardships and privations of pioneer life but always made the most of his opportunities. He came to Union City in 1852 and here engaged in the hardware business. He likewise followed other commercial enterprises here and at one time was a prominent dry goods merchant and was also proprietor of a grocery store, enjoying a liberal patronage in those various lines of business.

In matters of citizenship Mr. Crissey was always public spirited and progressive, doing everything in his power to advance the material, social, intellectual and moral welfare of his community. He always gave his political support to the Democratic party and kept well informed on the issues of the day, but did not care for office. A very prominent and zealous member of the Protestant Episcopal church, he built a house of worship for that denomination in Union City and was its chief support while he lived. His fraternal relations were with the Masonic lodge.

In early manhood Mr. Crissy was united in marriage to Miss Martha Corbin, who was born in Charleston, Sullivan county, New Hampshire, October 16, 1829. Her father, Ezbond Corbin, was likewise a native of Charleston and became one of the early settlers of Branch county, spending his last days in Union City. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Lucretia Howe, was born in Springfield, Vermont. They were the parents of eleven children, of whom ten reached adult age. Mrs. Crissy is the twin sister of Mrs. Isaac Tower, whose husband is represented elsewhere in this work. She came to Union City in 1850 and in 1852 gave her hand in marriage to Mr. Crissy. For fifty-five years she has resided here and is one of

the best known of the early residents of this place. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Crissy were born three children: Ella, who is living with her mother; Sarah, the wife of Peter J. Pauley of St. Louis, Missouri; and Frank St. John, who is a farmer of Calhoun county, Michigan, living about a mile north of Union City. There is one grandson, Herbert St. John.

Like her husband, Mrs. Crissy holds membership in the Episcopal church, with which she has been identified since its organization, and her many good qualities of heart and mind have endeared her to a large circle of friends. Mr. Crissy departed this life November 25, 1891, when seventy-two years of age, and thus the county was called upon to mourn the loss of one whom they had learned to respect and honor and had come to look upon as a representative pioneer and reliable business man. The county benefited by his efforts in its behalf and he was well liked by all who knew him.

FRANCIS J. TOMPKINS.

Francis J. Tompkins is a representative of one of the honored pioneer families of Girard township and no history of the county would be complete without mention of the members of this family. He was born on the old homestead on the 17th of August, 1852, his father being James B. Tompkins and his mother Eliza Ames. The father was born in Schoharie county, New York, June 28, 1804, where his early life was passed. Seeking the opportunities of the West he came to Michigan in the fall of 1830, arriving at Tecumseh, where he remained until July of the following year, spending a goodly portion of this time in surveying the then unbroken wilderness. He then made his way to Branch county and located in the township of Girard, which was to be his home for the remainder of his life. Here he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on sections fifteen and twenty-two, and in later years he acquired a large acreage in various parts of the township. Here he has made his home, and here he early made his influence felt in the community and county. Early in the year of 1832 he returned to Tecumseh and married Eliza Ames, the fifth child in a family of twelve children, their parents being William Ames and Polly Brownell, natives of Vermont, where Eliza was born in the town of Colchester, Chittenden county, March 3, 1813. William Ames was born August 18, 1777, and was a member of the Ames family which gave many prominent citizens to the United States. He died April 4, 1840.

James and Eliza (Ames) Tompkins immediately returned to Girard after their marriage. The township was not then the blooming and fertile country now seen here. Instead there was an almost unbroken wilderness, while bands of the Pottowatomie Indians made this their favorite stopping place. The young couple braved the many privations and hardships incident to pioneer life, and they made for themselves a comfortable home and raised a large family of children. Three of these children died in infancy. Martin died at the age of twenty years: Emma Tompkins Vanderlip died in 1897 and William A. Tompkins died July 13, 1905. Those still living are J. Theron Tompkins, Francis J. Tompkins and Mrs. Adaline Tompkins Granger, all of Girard. Mr. Tompkins was a competent surveyor and during the earlier years of his

residence here his services were in almost constant demand. Mr. Tompkins was the first supervisor of Girard township when it was organized in 1834, and he served his township in that capacity for sixteen years. He also filled nearly every other township office repeatedly and represented his county in the state legislature in 1854. His life was filled with good works and his death, which occurred August 1, 1879, was deeply deplored. His wife, who was loved by scores of relatives and hundreds of warm, personal friends, lived to a good old age, retaining her faculties to the last and passing away December 6, 1902, when nearly ninety years of age.

Francis J. Tompkins spent his entire life in the county of his nativity, working in the fields from his early boyhood days and thus assisting his father in the care and labor of the old home farm. He has never desired to seek employment in other departments of labor but has become a substantial farmer as the years have gone by and now resides upon the old Tompkins homestead, which was among the first properties improved in this portion of the state. In his farm work he is enterprising, systematic and progressive and everything about his place is indicative of the careful supervision of a painstaking owner.

On the 27th of October, 1875, Mr. Tompkins was married to Miss Lizzie M. Tappenden, who was born in Palmyra, New York, March 27, 1860, and is a daughter of Thomas and Amelia (Hollenbeck) Tappenden, who were residents of New York, Illinois and Ohio successively before coming to Michigan. In the year 1862 they settled in Girard township. Mrs. Tompkins can trace her lineage to the landing of the Mayflower at Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1620, the genealogy being as follows: John Alden married Priscilla Williams; John Alden's seventh child, Ruth Alden, married John Bass; John Bass' sixth child, Mary Bass, married William Copeland; William Copeland's ninth child, Mary Copeland, married Ephrian Jones; Ephrian Jones' second child, Moses Jones, married Dorothy Thayer; Moses Jones' third child, John Jones, married Nancy Mallory; John Jones' eighth child, Lucy Jones, married Casper Hollenbeck; Casper Hollenbeck's fourth child, Amelia Hollenbeck, married Thomas Tappenden; Thomas Tappenden's first child, Lizzie Tappenden, married Francis Tompkins. Mr. Thomas Tappenden was born in the Empire state, January 19, 1839, while his wife was born at Hillsdale, New York, on the 5th of June, 1840, and died in Girard township August 7, 1874. Mr. Tappenden, however, is still living and yet makes his home in Girard township. While in his native state he followed the business of distilling and since coming to Michigan has devoted his energies to agricultural pursuits. In his family were two daughters and two sons, namely: Mrs. F. J. Tompkins, who is living in Girard; Mrs. Lucy Goff, of Tekonsha, Michigan; William Tappenden, who makes his home in Cleveland, Ohio; and George Tappenden, a resident of Detroit.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Tompkins has been blessed with four children, namely: Mrs. Bessie A. Buys, who finished the eighth grade in school; Mrs. Clara B. Corey, who has finished school and received her diploma in the class of 1899; Lida F., who received her diploma in 1904, and has taken instrumental music and is a member of "The Tompkins Orchestra," her instru-

ment being the piano; and Arlene, who is in the third grade, the last two named being at home.

Mr. Tompkins exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Republican party, and has frequently been called to public office, serving for two terms as township treasurer, also as school director and in other local positions of trust and responsibility, the duties of which he has discharged in a capable manner. The work of development and improvement which was instituted by his father has been carried forward by him. Four generations of the Tompkins family have lived in this county and they have ever been people of the greatest worth and respectability, loyal in citizenship and honorable in private life.

FLOYD E. SOUTHWORTH.

Floyd E. Southworth, owning and operating a well improved farm on section two, Coldwater township, was born upon this place on the 25th of August, 1859. His paternal grandparents were Norman and Honor (Gardner) Southworth, who were natives of Massachusetts, whence they removed to Ontario county, New York, about 1822. In the '50s they came to Michigan and spent their remaining days in this state. Their son, James B. Southworth, was born in Hancock, Massachusetts, in 1816 and was a lad of six summers when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Ontario county, New York. There he resided until 1849, when he sought a home in Michigan. He had been married in the Empire state to Miss Alta Whitney, who was born in Genesee county, New York, in 1824. Her parents, who died in New York, had come from Connecticut ancestry and had removed from that state to New York. On reaching Michigan James B. Southworth took up his abode on section two, Coldwater township, where he cleared and improved a farm of eighty acres, living an active and useful life. In his political affiliation he was a Whig until the dissolution of that party, when he joined the ranks of the Republican party. He held various township offices, including that of drain commissioner, highway commissioner and justice of the peace and he was a prominent and influential citizen of Branch county in the middle portion of the nineteenth century. Both he and his wife held membership in the Episcopal church and were held in the highest regard by all who knew them. Mr. Southworth passed away on the 16th of June, 1892, having long survived his wife, who died on the 18th of September, 1870. In their family were four children: Sarah, who died in Coldwater in childhood; Floyd, of this review; Mrs. Alice Root, who is living in Coldwater, and Mark, who resides in Quincy.

Floyd E. Southworth spent the days of his childhood and youth on the old family homestead, where he was trained to the practical work of the farm, and as the years passed by he more and more largely assumed the management of the place and has ultimately become the owner of the property. In his political views he has always been a stalwart Republican. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Episcopal church. The Southworths are among the highly esteemed people of Branch county, where the family home

has been maintained for over half a century and Mr. Southworth of this review fully sustains the excellent reputation which has always been borne by those of his name. He keeps the homestead farm in an excellent state of cultivation, and it is well improved with good buildings and all modern accessories, while in its neat and thrifty appearance it indicates his careful supervision and able efforts.

CAPTAIN ED E. LEWIS.

Captain Ed E. Lewis, a prominent farmer residing on section twelve, Batavia township, was born in Orleans county, New York, May 6, 1838. His father, William Lewis, was a native of the Empire state, spent his youth there and in 1839 came to Michigan, locating near Homer, in Calhoun county. He was a son of William Lewis, also a native of Massachusetts and of Welch descent, the family, however, having been established in America at an early period in its colonization. After removing to Illinois William Lewis, Jr., became the owner of a carding mill and sawmill, and in addition to industrial pursuits also carried on farming. About 1848 he removed from Calhoun county to Coldwater, Branch county, where he engaged in the livery business for about fifteen years, or until 1859, when he took up his abode on a farm in Kinderhook township, purchasing a tract of land which was partially improved. There he resided until 1864, when he located on a farm in Coldwater township, which he sold in 1866, removing at that time to Elkhart, Indiana, where he died in his sixty-fifth year. His early political support was given to the Democracy, but at the outbreak of the Civil war he became a supporter of the Republican party, which was the defender of the Union during the dark days of severe strife. He held the office of justice of the peace but was not active in his search for political preferment. He married Miss Mary Scoville, a native of New York, who passed away at the age of forty-two years. In their family were four daughters and three sons and five of the number reached adult age, while three are yet living, Francis and Helen both being residents of this county.

Ed E. Lewis of this review was the third child and second son and was only a year old when taken by his parents from New York to Calhoun county, Michigan. He remained at home as his father's assistant during the period of his minority and was educated in the public schools of Coldwater and the district schools of Kinderhook township. In April, 1861, when twenty-two years of age, he offered his services to the government, enlisting for three months as a member of Company C, First Michigan Infantry. He had watched with interest the progress of events in the South, had noted its threatening attitude and resolved that if a blow was struck at the Union he would stand firmly in its defense. Accordingly he at once offered his aid to the government. He was the smallest man in his company, but his size was no criterion of his loyalty and bravery. After serving for the first term of enlistment—three months—he re-enlisted in Battery G of the First Michigan Light Artillery as a sergeant, afterward became second lieutenant and later was made first lieutenant and captain of his company, with which he served until after the close of hostilities in August, 1865, being mustered out at Jackson, Michigan, with

the rank of captain. His promotion came to him in recognition of his faithful and meritorious service on the field of battle, for he was always a brave soldier, inspiring the men under him with his own valor and courage. He participated in a number of sanguinary engagements, including the battles of Tazwell, Caney Bottom, Chickasaw Bayou, Arkansas Post, the siege of Vicksburg, the battles of Grand Gulf, Point Gibson, Champion Hill and Black River Bridge. Following the siege of Vicksburg he went to Jackson, Mississippi, and later returned to Vicksburg, after which he went over to Carlton, Louisiana, and on to Brazos and San Antonio, Texas, remaining in the Lone Star state until May, 1864. He afterward returned to Louisiana and in April, 1865, the Battery embarked for Fort Morgan on Mobile Bay, and he participated in the siege of Mobile until the 19th of July, being present at the great explosion. The war having ended he returned to Michigan, where he was honorably discharged. He was not absent from service save for thirty days during his four years' connection with the army and was never in the hospital. During the three months of his term of enlistment he participated in the battle of Bull Run and the first rebel prisoners were taken by his regiment. Gladly he returned to his home when peace was declared, for he had experienced all the hardships and dangers that are meted out to a soldier. Captain Lewis was present at Alexandria, Virginia, when Ellsworth, the brave officer, was shot. A few moments afterwards he was in the hotel where the tragedy occurred.

In 1866 Mr. Lewis went to Elkhart, Indiana, where he was engaged in the manufacture of sash, doors and blinds, there remaining in business until 1870, when he returned to Coldwater, where he conducted a window shade factory. About 1875, however, he sold out and began dealing in fruit trees, so continuing until 1888, when he bought a farm in Batavia township, where he has since resided. His persistency of purpose and unfaltering energy have been the basis of his success and in his agricultural interests he has shown excellent management and keen discernment.

December 21, 1865, Mr. Lewis was united in marriage to Miss Anna M. Garvin, a daughter of John and Emily (Goodnow) Garvin. Mrs. Lewis died October 2, 1887. There were four children of that marriage: Fred S., now living in San Francisco, California; Kate E., the wife of Arthur Sanders, of Batavia township; Helen F., a resident of Toledo, Ohio; and William J., who died on the 9th of August, 1877. For his second wife Mr. Lewis chose Miss Mina L. Gruner, a daughter of Wengel Gruner. There was one child by this marriage, Anna, now at home. The wife and mother died January 7, 1896, and on that occasion the following lines appeared in one of the local papers:

"A happy home was made desolate by death last Tuesday night, and the lifeless babe that would have been pressed against the warm bosom of a devoted mother was placed in her cold arms and thus mother and child sleep the dreamless sleep of those forever at rest under the snow in Oak Grove Cemetery, with the baby face pressed lovingly against hers. Mrs. Lewis was taken ill Monday by severe pains in the head, caused by uremic poisoning, and died Tuesday evening at 10 o'clock.

"The deceased was born near the spot where her life ended, and her pleasant ways, helpful kindness, amiable disposition and loving character made her

a universal favorite among the friends she had lived with from childhood to womanhood. She was a devoted wife and fond mother, and is survived by her husband and a daughter five years old. The deceased was a member of the Presbyterian church, and her church life was consistent and exemplary.

"Miss Mina L. Gruner was born April 25, 1860, and was united in marriage with Mr. Edwin E. Lewis in October, 1889, and their home has always been on the farm in Coldwater township. The funeral was held at the house Friday afternoon at 1 o'clock, and the bearers were her three brothers, Ward, Bart and Starr Gruner, and her relatives, S. T. Vesey, William Mitchell and Frank Gruner. Rev. H. P. Collin officiated at the funeral and the choir composed of her friends—Dr. Andrews, Prof. Harriman, Mrs. Carpenter and Mrs. Ball—sang the solemn requiem at the sepulcher."

The home farm of Mr. Lewis comprised at one time one hundred and forty-five acres, but he has since disposed of much of this and only retains possession of a small tract at the present writing. In politics he has been a life-long Republican, unfaltering in his advocacy of the men and measures of the party. He belongs to Butterworth Post, G. A. R., and in 1902 he was appointed a member of the Vicksburg Military Commission by Governor Bliss, and is still acting in that capacity. The object of this commission is to locate the position occupied during the siege of Vicksburg by the different Michigan organizations. Captain Lewis has served as justice of the peace and school inspector. Fraternally he was connected with the Ancient Order of United Workmen at Coldwater and he has a wide and favorable acquaintance in business, social and political circles. His life has been characterized by many sterling traits and in his relations with his fellowmen he has been just and honorable, while in all matters of citizenship he has displayed the same loyal spirit which characterized his performance of duty upon southern battle-fields and won him merited promotion.

OLIVER C. CAMPBELL.

Oliver C. Campbell, to whom has been entrusted public service, was sheriff of the county during the years of 1884-85-86-87 and from 1897 to 1898, inclusive, and the consensus of opinion regarding his incumbency was extremely favorable. He has a large circle of friends in Union City and Branch county and his life record cannot fail to prove of interest therefore to many of our readers. A native of Pennsylvania, he was born in Pottsville, Schuylkill county, on the 1st of October, 1845. His father, O. S. Campbell, who was of Scotch descent, was also a native of Pennsylvania, learning and following the millwright's trade, and in connection with that pursuit carried on farming. He married Miss Eliza Deitz, who was also a native of Pennsylvania, and was of German lineage.

O. C. Campbell, the eldest son and second child in their family of six children, was reared in the place of his nativity until eighteen years of age, and then leaving his father's home he entered upon an apprenticeship to the carpenter's trade. Hoping that still better advantages might be enjoyed in the west, he came to Branch county in 1866, locating in Union City, where

he began contracting and building, following this calling in Sherwood, Homer, Burlington, Tekonsha, Union City and other places. He has erected many schoolhouses, business blocks and private dwellings, and has undoubtedly done more building than any man in the county. He early displayed a thorough understanding of the builder's trade and accuracy in workmanship, reliability in trade transactions and the conscientious performance of his duties secured him a constantly growing patronage, and to-day in various parts of the county there are fine structures which stand as monuments of his enterprise and skill.

Active, too, in public life Mr. Campbell, whose ability for leadership is recognized, was called to the office of sheriff in the fall of 1883, and after serving for two years he was re-elected for a second term. In 1890 he carried the county for state senator against A. Milnes, of Coldwater, and in 1896 he was once more elected sheriff, serving in the years of 1897 and 1898. In the performance of duty he is unbiased by either fear or favor, giving his whole time to the suppression of lawlessness and crime in Branch county and the favorable opinion which was expressed concerning his service at the outset of his administration was in no degree set aside or modified during the incumbency in the office. In his political faith he is a Democrat. In 1870 he assisted in the organization of the Greenback party in Branch county, but he now gives unfaltering allegiance to the Democracy. The county has a normal Republican majority of about three thousand, and Mr. Campbell is the only Democrat ever elected to the office of sheriff here. His first election gave him a majority of only forty-seven and his second a majority of over seven hundred. Certainly no higher testimonial of capability in office could be given than this flattering vote. He made a record of putting more criminals in the penitentiary than any other sheriff in the state of Michigan, and no law-breaker ever escaped when Mr. Campbell sought to place him behind the bars. It was he who arrested the notorious Joe Howard, one of the three men who robbed the Coldwater Bank in daylight, Mr. Campbell capturing him on Chestnut street in Philadelphia, when he was planning and arranging with others to rob a savings bank of that city. This notorious "Joe Howard," known well in the criminal annals of different parts of the United States, is at the present time (1905) a prisoner in Vienna, Austria, and Mr. Campbell has compiled a review of this criminal's meanderings for the consulate, which is now in the hands of that high official. He sent twenty-three horse thieves to prison in one year and he became a menace to all evil-doers, while those who hold themselves amenable to law look upon him with a feeling of security.

His renown reaches almost that of national importance as a sleuth after criminals, and his successful capture of the robber, as well as the stolen goods. Mrs. Campbell, his little wife, is as well known for her bravery and fearlessness as her husband. Many have been the times when she was left in full charge of the prison in the absence of her husband, and in all cases and circumstances she acquitted herself well worthy of her steel and courage. Mr. Campbell's narratives of his dangerous trips or pursuits after criminals read like the stories of daring Dick Turpen and are intensely interesting, since they came under his administrations in old Branch county. Too much cannot be

said of the daring and courage of Mr. Campbell as sheriff of the county of Branch.

On the 21st of October, 1868, occurred the marriage of Mr. Campbell and Miss Ellen M. Roe, a daughter of Samuel and Phila (McDonald) Roe, both of whom were natives of New York, whence they came to Branch county about 1838, casting in their lot with the pioneer settlers here. Mrs. Campbell was born in Union township upon the old farm homestead, about a mile southeast of Union City, July 25, 1847, and is the youngest of four children, all of whom were born in leap year, or four years apart, one being born in the spring, a second in the fall, a third in the winter, while Mrs. Campbell's birth occurred in the summer. The eldest and youngest were daughters, while the others were sons. The sons are now deceased, but both daughters are living, the sister being Mrs. Cordelia Scott Thatcher, of Coldwater. In the paternal line Mrs. Campbell comes of Scotch lineage and in the maternal line of German descent. Mrs. Campbell has in her possession an old book which has been handed down from the McDonald family, published in 1798, a year before General Washington's death. This is an old heirloom in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Campbell. One son has been born unto our subject and his wife, who died in infancy, but they have an adopted daughter, Viva A., who is still with them. She has passed most of the high school work, and has taken both vocal and instrumental music, and is an active worker in both church and Sabbath school. Mr. Campbell belongs to the Masonic fraternity and has taken the degrees of Royal Arch and Knight Templar Masonry. He likewise is identified with other fraternal organizations. He now owns two good farms and is well-to-do, having four good houses and other property in Union City. He started out in life empty-handed, but as a contractor and builder won a handsome competence. In all life's relations, public or private, in business circles, in public office, or amid the relationships of his own home, he has so lived as to gain the unqualified regard of his fellowmen.

WILLIAM HENRY GATTSCHALK.

William Henry Gattschalk, the well known citizen of Quincy, where he is an extensive dealer in wood and lumber, was born in Prussia in 1850. Having come to America during boyhood, he is identified by many years of residence with this country and is a German-American of those stanch and enterprising qualities that form the firmest fibres of our citizenship.

His father, Karl Frederick, and his mother, Sophia (Hildebrand) Gattschalk, came from their native fatherland to the United States in 1865, settling in Algansee township, Branch county. The father had been an officer in the Prussian army, and in this county followed the occupation of farmer, living on his homestead in Algansee township until his death in 1876, when sixty years old. He was an industrious and God-fearing man, a member of the Lutheran church, as was also his wife, and during the years of his American citizenship he voted the Republican ticket and fulfilled his duties to family and society in a manner that leaves his record unblemished in the memory. There were ten children born to him and his wife, and those living at this

time are: Karl H., who lives on a farm in Algansee township; Christina, the wife of Mornac Wilson, a confectioner in Chicago; August, a locomotive engineer, living in Chicago; and William H.

The schools of the German fatherland furnished Mr. Gattschalk his education, and, being reared on a farm, he thoroughly understood its duties, even before coming to America. He was fifteen years old when the family crossed the waters, and it was not long after that he entered upon his independent career. Farming has been his life work, and his success has been the result of industry and shrewd business management, the latter quality being as essential in agriculture as in business or finance. Although he retired from the farm and moved to Quincy in 1894, he still owns a beautiful farm of one hundred and ten acres in Algansee township, and also has a nice home in town.

Mr. Gattschalk was married in 1876 to Minnie Bartel. She is also a native of Germany, born in 1856, and her parents, William and Christina (Leder) Bartel, came to the United States in 1870, settling first in Cleveland, Ohio, and later moving to Algansee township. Her father was a successful farmer, and died suddenly in November, 1905. Mrs. Gattschalk is one of six children, namely: Lena, the wife of Carl Hacker, a farmer in Algansee township; Mary, the wife of Karl Gattschalk, a farmer of Algansee township, who is mentioned above as the brother of W. H. Gattschalk; Fred, a farmer in Litchfield township, Hillsdale county; William, a farmer in Algansee township; and Bertha, at home with her parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Gattschalk have three children. Martha is the wife of Eugene Widner, a lock expert for the Mossler-Bauman Safe Company; Wilhelmina is at home; and Karl is a student in the University of Michigan, studying electrical engineering. Mr. Gattschalk and his wife are members of the Lutheran church, in which he is an official, and in his township he has served as treasurer. His politics is Republican.

ANTON GRUNER.

Anton Gruner, deceased, was long identified with the interests of Branch county. The Gruners come of an old German family, members of which arrived in Branch county in the '40s and '50s, leaving many descendants here who are numbered among the best people of this part of the state. Anton Gruner was a native of Austria and a son of Franz Gruner, who crossed the Atlantic to New York from Austria in 1854. His wife bore the maiden name of Katrina Berkman and they had seven children: Franz; Anton; Mrs. Anna Adolph, who died in Girard township: Mrs. Katherine Luh, who died in Union township; Wenzel, who died in Coldwater; Joseph, who died in Auburn, New York; and Karl, who is now living in Germany. The parents settled on section seven, Coldwater township, on coming to Branch county, Michigan, and here Franz Gruner passed away in 1856, while his wife died in 1861.

Anton Gruner was married to Miss Caroline Piltz, also a native of Germany, whence she came to America with her mother, brothers and sisters, the other children of the household being: Mrs. Lena Graft, who died in this

county; Karl, who was killed while serving as a soldier of the Union army in the Civil war; William, who is living in Batavia township; Franz, who died in Germany; and Mrs. Mary Hoffman, who died in Coldwater. Unto Anton and Caroline Gruner were born four children, all of whom are yet living, namely: Frank, more extended mention of whom will be found below; Mrs. Lena Cooley, of Batavia township; Charles, of Girard township; and Edwin, who is living in the township of Coldwater. Anton Gruner cleared much land in this county and at one time was the owner of several hundred acres, constituting a valuable property. The present homestead farm now comprises two hundred acres of fertile land, which is improved with good buildings. He died on the 7th of May, 1896, while his wife departed this life on the 30th of May, 1905.

Frank Gruner was born in Coldwater township, August 2, 1858, and is a representative of one of the old and worthy families of Branch county. He has spent his entire life on the old homestead farm in Coldwater township and is regarded as one of the progressive agriculturists of this locality. He has never married and he lived with his mother until her death at a recent date. He is a man of intelligence, thoroughly posted upon public interests of local and national importance and, like his father, is a stanch Republican, giving unfaltering allegiance to the party. He has served as a member of the township board of review and as moderator of the school district, and no trust reposed in him has ever been betrayed in the slightest degree. The Gruners are among the most highly esteemed residents of Branch county, are large property owners, people of good business ability and are held in high esteem.

JONATHAN JOHNSON.

Jonathan Johnson, who is interested in farming pursuits in Union township, was born in Cayuga county, New York, November 14, 1834. His father, Timothy Johnson, was a native of New Jersey, and was one of the early settlers of Cayuga county, where he followed the occupation of farming until his removal to Hillsdale county, Michigan, about 1837. He located there on a farm and throughout his remaining days carried on agricultural pursuits in that locality, his last days being passed in Wright township, where he died at the age of sixty-four years. He was in the War of 1812, participating in the battle of Fort Erie, and having been taken sick in army, came near dying. In her maidenhood, his wife bore the name of Jane Kellogg and was a native of New York, where her girlhood days were passed. She lived to be about sixty-four years of age. In their family were nine children, all of whom reached adult age, but only three are now living: R. N., of Detroit; Jonathan; and Mrs. Courser, of Lenawee county, Michigan.

Jonathan Johnson, the seventh member of the family, was only two years old when he came to Michigan, and upon the home farm in Wright township he was reared. He obtained his education in one of the old-time log schoolhouses, walking a mile and a quarter through the woods, following an old trail, for there were no roads at that time. When school was not in session he assisted in the operation of the home farm and he continued to give his

father the benefit of his services throughout the period of his minority. In 1860 he was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Glazer, a daughter of Jacob M. Glazer, who was one of the pioneer settlers of Union township, Branch county. She was born upon the farm in Union township that is now owned by Mr. Johnson and which is still known as the J. M. Glazer farm. Her father entered the land from the government in 1835, and at once began to clear and cultivate the place, upon which not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made.

Following his marriage, Mr. Johnson lived in Hillsdale county for about a year and then located on the farm which has since been his home in Union township. They were the parents of two sons, but one died in infancy. The other, Leo L., resides upon the old homestead, where he was born. He wedded Ida Hoeltcel, and they became the parents of two daughters, Beatrice and Dorothea.

Jonathan Johnson has been a resident of Union township for forty-four years and his wife has spent her entire life here. His farm comprises two hundred and ten acres of rich land, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation, so that the farm annually returns him a gratifying income. He has given his attention during the greater part of his life to agricultural pursuits and yet has conducted other business interests. He was proprietor of the Johnson House in Union City for eleven years and carried on merchandising for about four years. He also built the first planing and sawmill in Union City and operated the plant for about two years. He is engaged in the stock business, buying and shipping for four years, and his varied activities have contributed to the business development of his part of the county. In politics he is a Democrat and in the Masonic fraternity he has taken the degrees of the lodge, council and chapter. His interest in public affairs is that of a public-spirited citizen, who co-operates in every measure that he deems will prove of general good. He belongs to that class of representative men who, while promoting individual success also advances the general prosperity.

MORTIMER VOSBURGH.

Mortimer Vosburgh, well known as justice of the peace at Union City, was born in Yates county, New York, April 23, 1834. His father, Martin Vosburgh, was a native of Columbia county, New York, and was a shoemaker by trade. He followed that occupation in connection with farming and died in Orleans county, his native state, March 20, 1840. His wife bore the maiden name of Rachel Robison, and was born in Columbia county, New York, while her death occurred when she had reached the age of eighty-seven years.

Squire Mortimer Vosburgh is the last surviving member of a family of twelve children. In his boyhood days he accompanied his parents on their removal to Orleans county, New York, and afterward to Niagara county, where he was reared and made his home until September, 1854. A young man of twenty years, he then came to Branch county, Michigan, where he also turned his attention to farming, which he followed for about

ten years, after which he came to Union City. He has been prominent in public life here, acting as postmaster by appointment of President Hayes for five years and giving to the city a business-like administration of the affairs of the office. In 1882 he was appointed railway mail-clerk, but becoming disabled in the service he resigned. He afterward engaged in the jewelry business in Union City for about five years and in the meantime he was called to other public office, serving as supervisor of Union township for five years. He has also been justice of the peace for thirty consecutive years and few in the state have so long filled a similar office. He is township clerk at the present writing, in 1905, and has acted in this capacity for twenty years. He has also been assessor for eighteen successive years and at one time he served as justice of the peace, township clerk, supervisor and assessor. Every trust reposed in him is faithfully discharged and he is equally prompt and reliable in meeting every obligation of public or private life.

Mr. Vosburgh was married in 1857 to Miss Mary E. Burnett, and they had two daughters, but both are now deceased. For his second wife he chose Marian E. Pixley. Mr. Vosburgh is prominent in local Masonic circles, having taken the degrees of the lodge, chapter and council, and he also belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he has filled all of the chairs with the local organization and some of the offices in the grand lodge. He has been initiated into the Knights of the Maccabees and therein has filled all the different official positions. He has been a stalwart Republican since casting his vote for the first presidential nominee of the party, John C. Fremont. He attended the meeting which was held under the oaks where the party was organized at Jackson, Michigan, and he has since been loyal to its welfare, doing all in his power to promote its growth and insure its success. Few men are more widely known in Union City and in the county than Mortimer Vosburgh, and because he has so long figured in public life his history is well known to his fellow townsmen. Over the record of his career there falls no shadow of wrong or suspicion of evil, and such a career restores one's faith in his fellowmen at an age when so much is said—and often with truth—of the corruption in politics.

PERRY J. BUELL.

Perry J. Buell is the senior member of the firm of Buell & Boyer, dealers in lumber, tile, brick and general building materials. He is one of the younger members of trade relations in Union City, and is a native son of this place, his birth having here occurred October 15, 1870. His parents are M. F. and Mary J. (Perry) Buell. He began his education at the usual age in the common schools and passed through consecutive grades until he had become well qualified by mental discipline for the labors which devolve upon one as he enters the business world. After leaving school Mr. Buell was associated with his father in the employ of the Michigan Central Railroad Company as assistant and weigh clerk at the station here, acting in that capacity for eight years, and in February, 1903, he formed a partnership with Clinton C. Boyer in the business in which they are now conducting. They have a well equipped

lumber yard, also deal quite extensively in tile, brick and general building materials, and they have won a patronage that is accorded them in recognition of their honorable business methods and earnest desire to please their customers.

Mr. Buell was married June 19, 1900, to Miss Byrdie Gaw, a daughter of George H. and Harriet (Wadsworth) Gaw. Mrs. Buell was born April 1, 1872, and was reared in Ohio, and by her marriage has become the mother of one son, Martin F. Mr. Buell exercises his right of franchise in support of the Republican party and its principles and is deeply interested in its success. He was for two years a member of the council of Union City, but his activity in public affairs is that of a man who desires the adoption of principles rather than seeks his own personal advancement. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity and is now master of Union Lodge, No. 28, and has entered his name on the membership roll of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and he is active in that organization. He had little assistance at the outset of his business career in the way of financial aid and his history therefore is an illustration of what ability, energy and force of character can accomplish.

MRS. LOUISA SHEDD.

Mrs. Louisa Shedd, making her home in the village of Tekonsha, is a representative of one of the oldest pioneer families of Branch county. She was born in Richmond, Ontario county, New York, on the 11th of August, 1850, a daughter of Robert and Amelia (Peabody) Eldred. The father was born in New York, June 10, 1804, while the mother's birth occurred in the same state, April 21, 1808. They were married at Candice, New York, on the 10th of May, 1827, and in 1852 came to Michigan with their ten children, namely: Mrs. Sally M. Walker, who is still living in Girard township; Alvah D. Eldred, who died in Tekonsha, Michigan, January 30, 1903; Mrs. Mary Markham, who died in Girard township, April 23, 1872; Isaac, who died in New York, at the age of fourteen years; Lewis S., who is now living in Tekonsha; Joseph G., a resident of Quincy, this state; Mrs. Almira Bartlett, living in Girard township; R. Elon, who makes his home in Tekonsha; Albert M., living in Colon, Michigan; and Mrs. Louisa Shedd.

On coming to Michigan the family home was established in Tekonsha, on the border line of Girard township. There the mother died April 27, 1860, and on the 29th of January, 1861, Robert Eldred married Laura Peabody, a sister of his first wife. His death occurred March 21, 1886, while his second wife died July 17, 1890.

Louisa Eldred was only two years old when brought by her parents to Branch county, and in their home she spent her girlhood days, while in the public schools she acquired her education. On the 4th of October, 1871, she gave her hand in marriage to Samuel Shedd, who was born in Tekonsha, July 24, 1844, a son of Ranodyne Shedd, one of the earliest settlers of Calhoun county, Michigan. He had been previously married, on the 24th of February, 1869, to Miss Nellie Blashfield, of Clarendon, who died October 2, 1870, while their only child died in infancy. Unto Samuel and Louisa Shedd were

born six children: John, born July 22, 1885, died March 21, 1898, at the age of twelve years; Jay, born September 22, 1872, and now living at Bay City, Michigan, married Lettie Loring and has two children, Loren and Gladys; Phoebe A. Shedd, born June 21, 1874, is the wife of Harry Williams, of Tekonsha, and has three children, Leila, Alvin and Fern; Nellie A. Shedd, born November 1, 1876, is the wife of Arah Shumway, of Tekonsha, and has three children, Ned, Carl and Marion; Ward R. Shedd, born July 8, 1879, is an instructor in the Michigan Agricultural College, at Lansing; Bert, born August 7, 1881, is at home with his mother.

Samuel Shedd was one of the most extensive and prosperous farmers of Girard township, being connected with agricultural interests for many years and owning and operating three hundred acres of land in Girard and Tekonsha townships. In all of his business affairs he was enterprising and progressive and he kept in touch with the most advanced ideas of modern scientific farming. Moreover he found time to further many interests for the public good and for a long period did effective service for the cause of education as a school officer, and also served on the board of review. Fraternally he was a Mason and a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and he also belonged to the Grange. He commanded the respect of his fellow townsmen in an unqualified degree and won their admiration by reason of his well conducted and successful business interests. He was loyal in citizenship, faithful in friendship and reliable in business transactions, yet the best traits of his character were reserved for his own family and fireside. After a very brief illness he passed away September 29, 1899.

Mrs. Shedd directs the operations of her several farms, and although she had no previous business training or experience she has displayed much capability in the management of her interests since her husband's death. For the past few years she has lived in the village of Tekonsha, where she has a comfortable home. By birth and marriage she is connected with two of the oldest pioneer families of this part of the state, and she has a wide and favorable acquaintance.

J. J. BANFORD.

J. J. Banford, the pioneer harness manufacturer of Union City, was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, December 24, 1844. His father, John Banford, was a native of Maryland, in which state he was reared and educated. He became a drover and cattleman, purchasing cattle in various localities, which he drove to Baltimore and then sold in the city market. On one of his trips he was murdered before his son, J. J. Banford, was born. His wife bore the maiden name of Catherine Eckis, and following the death of her first husband she married James Welch. Her death occurred in 1862.

J. J. Banford spent the days of his boyhood and youth with his mother and acquired a common school education. In January, 1864, when a little more than nineteen years of age, he responded to the country's call for aid, enlisting with the boys in blue of Battery H, First Michigan Light Artillery, with which he served until the close of the war, proving a brave and valiant

soldier. With a capital military record he returned to his home, and in 1865 he became connected with the harness business at Berrien Springs, Michigan, serving a regular apprenticeship. When his term of indenture was ended he traveled through the country, working as a journeyman, and in 1870 he settled in Union City, where he entered the employ of E. L. Lee. Subsequently he went to Homer, where he establishd a harness business, but in 1878 he returned to Union City, where he has since conducted business on his own account in the line of his trade.

In 1872 Mr. Banford was united in marriage to Miss Celinda Sage, of Stryker, Ohio. The only child of this marriage died in infancy, and Mrs. Banford passed away March 13, 1873. On June 7, 1874, Mr. Banford married again, his second union being with Lydia S. Van Deuser. They have two daughters, Jessie Belle and Flora.

Mr. Banford has always taken an active interest in political matters and gives an unfaltering support to the Republican party. He has been a member of the council for about seven years and has exercised his official prerogatives in support of all that pertains to the upbuilding and welfare of his community. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity, in which he has attained the Knight Templar degree and he also has membership relations with the Knights of the Maccabees, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and Corbin post, No. 88, G. A. R., in all of which he has filled offices. He has been a resident of Union City for thirty-five years and there is to-day no harnessmaker here whose arrival antedates his. He has long been accorded a liberal patronage and as the years have gone by he has gained the success which should ever follow close, persistent and honorable effort. Undoubtedly one element of his advancement is the fact that he has persevered in the course in which as a young tradesman he embarked. Gaining a thorough knowledge of the business in early life, he was well qualified for the task which he undertook; his excellent workmanship and straightforward dealing have made him one of the prosperous manufacturers of Union City.

CICERO J. HOLMES.

Cicero J. Holmes, one of the wealthy farmers and influential citizens of Branch county, Michigan, was born in Bronson, this county, November 13, 1844, a son of pioneer residents. His parents, Jonathan and Mary (Taggart) Holmes, natives respectively of Peterboro and Dublin, New Hampshire, came from New England to Michigan at an early day and settled in Branch county. Here Jonathan Holmes followed the occupation of a mill man for a number of years, and acquired farming lands. He died December 11, 1884.

Cicero J. Holmes attended the public schools and spent one year in Hillsdale College. When he started out in life on his own responsibility it was as a farmer on a piece of land given him by his father. He is now the owner of over a thousand acres of agricultural and timber land, and is regarded as the most extensive farmer in the township. He is also interested in banking, being a stockholder in the Coldwater National Bank and the Burr Oak State Bank.

Mr. Holmes and his family have a magnificent country home. He married, April 11, 1883, Miss Mary Straehly, a native of Pennsylvania, and to them have been born five children, namely: Mary Jane Amelia, Cicero J., Jr., Warren (deceased), Ezra and Oliver Wendell.

Politically Mr. Holmes affiliates with the Democratic party and fraternally he is a Mason, having membership in the Mystic Lodge at Bronson and Coldwater Commandery, No. 10, K. T.

JOHN D. PARKS.

John D. Parks, a dealer in agricultural implements in Union City, who is now filling the office of deputy sheriff, was born in Erie county, Ohio, November 23, 1845. His father, John D. Parks, was a native of Saratoga county, New York, and about 1836 removed to Ohio, making a settlement in Erie county. He was an iron moulder by trade and throughout his entire life engaged in business along that line. Thinking that he might have still better opportunities in another locality, he came to Branch county, Michigan, in 1852, locating at Union City, where for many years he was a prominent representative of industrial interests, serving as superintendent of the Nye Plow Company, through two decades. He died in New York city at the venerable age of seventy-nine years. His wife, who in her maidenhood was Lucy McConnell, was a native of New York City, spent her girlhood days there and after long years of residence in the middle west she died in Union City at the age of seventy-three years. In their family were three sons: Charles W., John D., and George F., the last named a resident of Oregon.

John D. Parks was a lad of eight summers when brought by his parents to Union City. He entered the public schools here and mastered the branches of learning therein taught. He learned the iron moulder's trade and followed that pursuit until he enlisted in June, 1861, becomnig a member of Company B, 15th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for three years and three months. He was with the army under McClellan and saw much active service in the east. His first enlistment was for a term of three months and on the expiration of that period he re-enlisted in the same company and regiment. He was promoted to sergeant major of engineers and held that position at the time he received an honorable discharge. He took part in many important engagements, including the battles of Rich Mountain, Elkwater and Greenbrier, and later he was transferred to the army of the Ohio in the winter of 1861. This led him to participate in the battles of Shiloh, Corinth, Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge. At the battle of Stone River he was wounded in the left side by a minie ball and he was in the hospital in Nashville, Tennessee, for three months. Following his wound he suffered from an attack of fever, which also kept him in the hospital for three months. He was then transferred to the engineers' headquarters and was made sergeant major in the engineering department, acting in that capacity until the close of the war. In July, 1864, he returned to Nashville, being connected with the quartermaster's department of the army of the Cumberland.

Mr. Parks remained in Chattanooga, Tennessee, until 1868, acting as a clerk in the commission house. He then returned to Union City, where he resumed work at the moulder's trade, which he followed until 1895, being employed at South Bend, Indiana; Lansing and Jackson, Michigan; and other places. In the year mentioned he again came to Union City and began farming, locating on a tract of land in Burlington township, Calhoun county. There he lived until 1898, since which time he has been engaged in business as a dealer in agricultural implements in Union City. He has been active in politics as a supporter of Republican principles, has been a member of the town council and is now serving for his second term. He was appointed deputy sheriff in February, 1905, and also acts in that capacity. His fraternal relations are with Corbin Post, No. 88, G. A. R., in which he has filled all of the chairs. He is also a member of the Masonic fraternity, having taken the Master's degree.

In 1868 Mr. Parks was united in marriage to Miss Catherine E. Freemyer, a daughter of John Freemyer, and they now have a son and daughter, William D., who was educated in the Union schools, and is a barber of Union City, and Mamie A., at home, who was educated in the public schools.

PIZARRO MANSFIELD.

Pizarro Mansfield and his wife, Mrs. Harriet (Press) Mansfield, who are respectively eighty-nine and eighty-four years of age, are the oldest residents of the township of Butler and are in consequence distinctively entitled to representation in this volume. They are also pioneer residents of the county, having for more than six decades been witnesses of the labor and the changes which have wrought its transformation from a wild district to one of advanced civilization.

Mr. Mansfield was born west of Rochester, New York, October 2, 1816, a son of Isaac and Anna (Holden) Mansfield, who always remained residents of the Empire state. He was reared to manhood upon the old home farm in New York, early taking his place in the fields, to assist in the work of plowing, planting and harvesting after the manner of the times. As a companion and helpmate for life's journey he chose Miss Harriet Press, to whom he was married at Mumford, New York, on the 2d of October, 1843, a daughter of Alpheus and Charlotte (Kellogg) Press, who always remained residents of New York. Mrs. Mansfield was born at York, New York, November 9, 1821, and spent her girlhood in her parents' home.

Soon after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Mansfield sought a home in the west, making their way to Branch county, Michigan, and locating in Butler township, where they have since remained. They settled first on section twenty-five, where they lived until coming to their present home on section twenty-six, in 1865. Mr. Mansfield cleared and developed the farm on section twenty-five, now owned and occupied by J. S. Bignall, and he also cleared a portion of his present farm. In the early years of their residence here theirs was the usual experience of the pioneer settler who makes his way to the frontier, leaving behind the comforts and conveniences of the older east, but

by his work and efforts plants the seeds of civilization that have brought forth the fruit of present progress and prosperity in this county. There was much arduous toil required to bring his farm under cultivation and the farm implements were very crude as compared to those of the present day, manual labor being then demanded, while now much of the labor is performed through the splendidly improved farm machinery. The household furnishings and equipments were also very few as compared to those of the present, so that both Mr. and Mrs. Mansfield did a large share of earnest labor, the former in the fields, the latter in the home. Although now far advanced in years, they still reside upon their farm, each performing daily tasks, for they retain excellent physical as well as mental vigor.

Mr. and Mrs. Mansfield have also reared a family of four children, the family circle yet remaining unbroken. These are: John Mansfield, who now resides in Montana and has three children living; Charles, a resident of Quincy, Michigan, and the father of one son; Helen M. Annin, of Butler, who has two children; and Mrs. Mary Mohn, of Butler, who has one child. Mr. Mansfield's children and some of their grandchildren reside near them and perform various services for them, but this worthy and venerable couple prefer to reside upon their own farm, which is a fine tract of land of one hundred and twenty acres, on which are good buildings and equipments. Mr. Mansfield does little of the farm work himself, but gives supervision to its operation and for many years he performed the active labor of the fields. He was influential and active in public affairs in the early history of Butler township. His wife belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church of South Butler and is an earnest Christian woman. Mr. and Mrs. Mansfield have led a most congenial, happy married life, and still enjoy life together, for though the years are many they are young in spirit. They merit and receive the regard and friendship of all who know them, and their acquaintance is wide, and it is with pleasure that we present to our readers this history of their lives.

AMBROSE LAMPMAN, M. D.

Dr. Ambrose Lampman, who was formerly actively identified with the medical profession but is now giving his attention largely to agricultural pursuits in Butler township, was born in Greenville, Green county, New York, January 1, 1829. His father, Abraham P. Lampman, was also a native of that county, as was the grandfather, Peter Lampman. The former was married in Green county to Miss Mary Brandow, also a native of that locality. Both the Lampmans and Brandows had for several generations been prominent there and both families were of old Dutch ancestry. In the year 1848 Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Lampman came to Michigan with their family, settling in Butler township, Branch county, where the mother died on the 18th of April, 1860, while the father's death occurred on the 30th of August of the same year. They held membership in the Presbyterian church, were earnest Christian people and were always true to their belief. Mr. Lampman gave his undivided attention to agricultural pursuits for many years and was also active in community affairs, serving as justice of the peace both in Michigan

and in New York. In their family were the following named: Epenetus, now living in Quincy, Michigan; Luman, who died in Bethel township, Branch county, in 1890; Mrs. Elizabeth Delamatter, who died in 1897; and Ambrose.

Dr. Lampman received a liberal education and after completing his literary course in Olivette College he pursued a medical course in Cincinnati Eclectic College. He then located for finishing or preparing himself for practice in Homer, Michigan, where he remained for six months, and he likewise engaged in practice in Butler township for twenty years together with the occupation of farming. In recent years, however, he has done little as a practitioner save for the medical aid given to his family. He first owned sixty-three acres of land on section thirty-four, Butler township, of which he became owner in 1855. This he cleared and improved and as the years have gone by he has added to the property and placed thereon all modern equipments.

In Calhoun county, Michigan, on the 7th of March, 1855, Dr. Lampman was married to Miss Helen King, who was born in Michigan, September 27, 1838, and whose family history is given in connection with the sketch of Seth King on another page of this work. Dr. and Mrs. Lampman have had thirteen children. Charles, born October 14, 1855, died December 6, 1896. He married Julia Dresser and they have two children, Lura and Claude. Clara Amelia, born April 4, 1857, died on the 22d of October of the same year. George W., born April 23, 1858, married Ella Fox and they live in Butler and have five sons: William, Leon, Elmer, Clarence and Bryan. Florence A., born August 21, 1859, is the wife of Charles Parks and they have two sons: LeRoy and Burton, both of whom are married. The next member of Dr. Lampman's family was a son, who died in 1861 when but ten days old. Ambrose Epenetus, born May 18, 1863, and now living in Butler township, married Susie Rassford and has six children: Harry, Eddie, May, Charles, Louis and Frances. Jane died when a month old and one son died when a week old. Andrew B. Lampman, born March 20, 1869, is living in northern Michigan and married Amy Talent, by whom he has six children: Ethel, Vivian, Marie, Arthur, Ellen and Helen. Carrie May, born August 21, 1873, is the wife of William Fultz. Arthur E., born December 4, 1875, died April 4, 1877. Leon L., born September 16, 1877, died November 26, 1879. Bursey H., born July 18, 1881, is the wife of William Randerson, a resident of Quincy, Michigan.

Dr. Lampman has for many years been a member of the Quincy Detective Association. In politics he is a Democrat, figuring prominently in local political circles. He is a gentleman of liberal education and strong intellectual force. He has ever been a great reader and has thus continually broadened his mind, storing it with much valuable information. He to-day owns a large and fine farm which he operates, and in his work he has been quick to adopt modern methods promising to prove of practical utility. His work has been attended by a gratifying measure of success, and in all life's relations he is honored, for the motive forces of his life have been such as to command respect and confidence.

JOSEPH G. ELDRED.

In tradition the descendants of the Eldreds came from King Ethelred of England, and this genealogy is handed down from generation to generation.

Joseph G. Eldred, who has been identified with building and farming operations in Branch county for many years and makes his home in Quincy township, was born in Ontario county, New York, on the 2nd of January, 1841, coming to Michigan with his parents when a youth of eleven years. His father, Robert Eldred, was also a native of the Empire state, born June 10, 1804. He was reared there and was married in Candice, New York, on the 10th of May, 1827, to Miss Amelia Peabody, whose birth occurred in that state, April 21, 1808. The Eldreds and Peabodys have been residents of New York for several generations and were people of importance there, the Peabodys being especially prominent and cultured residents of the Empire state.

Robert Eldred and his wife were the parents of ten children when they came to Michigan in 1852. These were: Mrs. Sally Walker, who is still living in Girard; Alvah D. Eldred, who died in Tekonsha, Michigan, January 30, 1903; Mrs. Mary Markham, who died in Girard, April 23, 1872; Isaac, who died in New York at the age of fourteen years; Lewis S. Eldred, who is living in Tekonsha; Joseph G., of this review; Mrs. Almira A. Bartlett, a resident of Girard; R. Elon Eldred, of Tekonsha; Albert M. Eldred, residing in Colon, Michigan; and Mrs. Louise Shedd, who also makes her home in Tekonsha. The mother, Mrs. Amelia Peabody Eldred, died April 27, 1860, and on the 29th of January, 1861, Robert Eldred married Laura Peabody, a half sister of his first wife. Mr. Eldred was a man of genuine worth, highly esteemed in business and social circles and in public life as well. He died March 21, 1886, and his second wife passed away July 17, 1890. The home farm of the family in Michigan was in Tekonsha township on the boundary line of Branch county.

Joseph G. Eldred was reared to manhood on the old homestead farm, early becoming familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist and at the outbreak of the Civil war, when twenty years of age, he enlisted for service on the 23rd of August, 1861, as a member of Company E, First Michigan Infantry. On the 17th of February, 1864, he was honorably discharged, but on the same day re-enlisted and served until after the close of the war, being mustered out on the 9th of July, 1865. He was chief bugler and principal musician of his regiment and as such was a non-commissioned staff officer. The First Michigan Infantry was assigned to the Army of the Potomac and Mr. Eldred participated in forty great battles of the Civil war, in the Army of the Potomac and was present at the surrender of Appomattox by General Lee to Grant, April 9, 1865. He was wounded at the Battle of Fredricksburg, December 13, 1862. He made a splendid record as a soldier.

In early life Mr. Eldred had learned the carpenter's trade, and he has constructed many buildings in this part of the state, both in and outside of Branch county. At the same time he has always carried on farming, and at the time of his marriage established his home in Girard township. It was after his return from the war that he was married on the 22nd of February,

1866, to Miss Thirza L. Millard, who was born in Webster, Monroe county, New York, December 24, 1843, a daughter of Noah M. Millard, who was born in Rhode Island on the 21st of May, 1803, and died in Girard township, May 23, 1880. Her mother bore the maiden name of Cynthia A. Almy and was born in western New York, August 27, 1807, while her death occurred in Girard township, Branch county, January 15, 1866. They were married on the 28th of October, 1827, and they had six children, all of whom have passed away, with the exception of Mrs. Eldred. Her maternal grandfather, Peter Almy, was a native of Germany, came to this country in the latter part of the eighteenth century and served as a soldier in the war of 1812. Her paternal ancestors came from Wales and one of these, General Maxwell, was a notable figure in the Revolutionary war.

After living for a year in Girard township Mr. and Mrs. Eldred removed to Tekonsha, where they lived for three years, and then took up their abode on their present farm on section three, Quincy township, where Mr. Eldred owns forty-five acres of good land, improved with excellent buildings. Everything about his place indicates thrift and care. From his father he inherited a love of fruit raising, and upon his place are many choice varieties of grapes, pears, peaches and other fruits.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Eldred have been born seven children, of whom five are living, two having died in infancy. Coralyn, born May 25, 1871, died on the 25th of September of the same year. Leroy M., born April 24, 1867, was married March 10, 1894, to Laura E. Jordan, and they reside in Butler, where he is engaged in carpentering and farming. Edith M., born April 22, 1869, is a graduate of the state normal school at Ypsilanti and is engaged in teaching in Whitehall, Michigan. R. Ray, born September 24, 1872, who is a graduate of the Kentucky university and is a missionary of the Church of Christ in southwestern Africa on the Congo, was married August 4, 1901, to Lillian Byers, and they have two children, who are with them in Africa. William Gay, born September 18, 1874, was married July 25, 1904, to Marie Pickering, and is engaged in preaching for the Church of Christ at Fulton, Kentucky, after having been educated in the Kentucky University. Laura C., born November 30, 1878, was graduated at the state normal school at Ypsilanti, Michigan, has engaged in teaching school and is now attending a training school for missionaries in Brooklyn, New York, with the intention of going to Japan as a missionary. Blanche L., born August 21, 1881, died on the 15th of October following.

In politics Mr. Eldred has always been a Republican and has served as highway commissioner for one year and as school officer for many years. He has been a member of the Church of Christ and has been overseer of the Quincy Society for thirty years. He is an able speaker and exponent of that faith, and the members of his household are also members of the church, taking an active and helpful part in its work. Industry and perseverance in business life, loyalty in his military experiences and devotion to his church, his family and his friends have made Mr. Eldred one of the honored and respected residents of Branch county.

CHARLES PIERCE.

Charles Pierce, living on a farm on section ten, Batavia township, owns here two hundred and twenty-seven and a half acres of land, but largely rents the farm, thus leaving the active work of the fields to others. He was born in the southeastern part of Batavia township on the 27th of December, 1843. His father, Zolva Pierce, was a native of New York, born near Buffalo, whence he came to Branch county as one of its pioneer settlers. That the work of progress and improvement had scarcely been begun is shown by the fact that much of the land was still in possession of the government and by entering a claim Mr. Pierce secured his farm. With characteristic energy he began the cultivation of the fields and continued active farm work up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1853. He married Miss Catherine Olmstead, a native of New York, who is still living in her eighty-second year. They were the parents of four children, of whom three are yet living, Charles being the eldest of the family.

Upon the old family homestead in Batavia township Mr. Pierce spent the days of his boyhood and youth, starting out in life on his own account when only twelve years of age. He walked to Colon, carrying his possessions, which were extremely limited, consisting only of a few articles of clothing. He worked for a Mrs. Gordon for two years for six dollars per month driving oxen. He was employed by the day or by the job and later he engaged in railroad work. Subsequently he began buying wood and later he worked on the Erie canal. He also spent two summers on a lightning rod wagon and later he engaged in trading in horses. This was his first real start upon an independent business venture. While in the lightning rod business he was in the employ of Ives G. Miles, of Coldwater. Later he turned his attention to dealing in timber, buying land from which he would sell the timber, and to the present time he continues in this line of trade. He also conducts a wood yard in Coldwater and he is today the owner of three hundred acres of timber land in Tennessee. He located on his present farm about 1873 and has improved the place in many ways, remodeling the house and building one of the large barns of the county, one hundred by thirty-six feet. He has two hundred and twenty-seven and a half acres of land which he rents to others. His life has been characterized by unremitting diligence and his perseverance has been the means of bringing to him a creditable and gratifying measure of success.

Mr. Pierce has been married twice. On the 14th of August, 1869, he wedded Miss Mary A. Smith, a native of Batavia township and a daughter of Levi and Maria Smith. She died September 7, 1891, leaving four children. Glenn Otis, born November 1, 1870, is a traveling man of Coldwater, successfully representing the Standard Wall Paper Company of New York. Orville, born May 20, 1873, is deceased. Nellie, born April 20, 1876, is the wife of Ed F. Able of Elkhart, Indiana. Mabel, born August 22, 1884, has also passed away. On the 14th of August, 1893, Mr. Pierce was again married, his second union being with Miss Lucinda Early, a daughter of Samuel and Margaret (Gray) Early. They have one son, Harold Early Pierce, who was born April 27, 1895, and is now attending school.

Mr. Pierce is a Democrat in his political views and is well known in the county because of the active and helpful interest which he has taken in public affairs. He belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen at Coldwater. He began life a poor boy and what he possesses has been honestly and earnestly won. He has given close attention to business and is a self-made man in every sense of the word, deserving all of the praise which that term implies. His life record proves what can be accomplished by earnest, unfaltering effort and may well serve as a source of encouragement and inspiration to others who have to begin life as he did without capital or the aid of influential friends.

DWIGHT E. YOUNGS.

Dwight E. Youngs, who, when the tocsin of war sounded, was found as a loyal advocate of the Union cause, manifesting his fidelity upon the battlefields of the south, is now living a retired life in Union City. He was born in Smyrna, Chenango county, New York, October 2, 1831. It is believed that his great-grandfather was a native of Scotland and the founder of the family in America, and it is definitely known that John S. Youngs, the grandfather, was of Scotch lineage. Curtis S. Youngs, the father, was born in Lanesboro, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, and became a carpenter and joiner. He came to Branch county in 1836, locating in Union City, and assisted in erecting some of the first frame buildings here. The following year he brought his family to his new home, having determined to make it his permanent place of residence, and with the exception of two years spent in Coldwater, when he filled the office of register of deeds, he resided continuously in Union township. Ralizing the needs of a new community and its possibilities he so directed his labors that he became an important factor in the early improvement and development of this part of the state, and his fellow townsmen recognizing his ability and trustworthiness called him to public office. He was the first supervisor elected in Union township and held other local positions. He was a member of the Congregational church, active in its work, living in constant harmony with its teachings, and in the faith he died in his eighty-fifth year. His wife bore the maiden name of Lucy Lincoln and was a native of Bath, Maine. She came of English lineage and lived to be eighty-three years of age, while her mother had passed the eighty-fourth milestone on life's journey when called to her final rest. Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Youngs were the parents of six sons, of whom one died in infancy, while another, Fred C., died in 1862, aged nineteen years, upon the battlefields while serving as a defender of the Union cause. The eldest brother, Melvin L. Youngs, was born April 8, 1826, and died in June, 1902. He was a prominent Mason, having joined the organization in Union City. In 1856 he removed to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and was appointed grand lecturer of the state, which position he held for more than forty years, acting in that capacity up to the time of his death. He was widely known in Masonic circles throughout that and other states and did much for the dissemination of the basic principles of the order which had their foundation in mutual helpfulness and brotherly kindness. John S. Youngs, born October 11, 1828, died in 1898.

He was a banker of Coldwater for a number of years, carrying on business as a partner of Justin Lawyer. He was also a leading contractor and railroad builder and spent much of his life in Flint, Michigan, in the abstract business. Sidney M. Youngs, born June 17, 1840, in Union City, was for about twenty years a resident of Allegheny, Pennsylvania, and also lived at Vancouver, British Columbia. Subsequently he returned to Michigan and now makes his home in Bellaire, this state.

Dwight E. Youngs, the third member of the family, was in his sixth year when he arrived in Union City, and here he remained until fourteen years of age, when he went with his mother's sister to Worcester county, Massachusetts, spending eight years in the east, during which time he attended school for three months in the year, while the remaining nine months were devoted to farm labor. On the expiration of that time he returned to Union City and soon afterward became actively engaged in farming in Union township.

As a companion and helpmate for life's journey, Mr. Youngs chose Miss Emily Denny, and they were married on the 1st of May, 1854. She was reared by an uncle and aunt, Peter and Thankful Davison, her parents having died during her early girlhood. Mr. and Mrs. Youngs began their domestic life upon a farm and he continued to engage in agricultural pursuits until the 24th of August, 1861, when he enlisted in response to his country's call, becoming a member of Battery D, First Michigan Light Artillery, with which he served until July, 1862. He was then honorably discharged on account of disability. He was sergeant in the battery and was injured in the service. Returning to his home he resumed farming in Branch county, where he continued until 1866, when he returned to Worcester county, Massachusetts, and was there engaged in the manufacture of cheese. Later he again came to Michigan, settling in Hillsdale county, where he conducted building operations as a builder and joiner. In 1877 he returned to Union City to care for his aged parents and continued with them until they were called to the home beyond. He is now living a retired life and is well known as one of the valued and representative residents of this place.

Mr. Youngs has taken quite an active and helpful part in public affairs and has filled the following offices: Marshal of the village, constable of the township, justice of the peace for eight years and notary for several years. He is a charter member of Corbin Post, No. 88, G. A. R., in which he has served as commander and has filled all of the other chairs. He is quite well known as a local historian and has written much of the history of Union City. He was also appointed historian by the Grand Army Post and has recorded the names and the war history of all of its different members.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Youngs was born one daughter, Laura, born February 10, 1855, at Union City, Michigan, and died February 4, at White Cloud, Michigan, and one son, who is yet living, Charles S., whose birth occurred September 24, 1878, and is now located in Belding, Michigan, where he follows the printer's trade. The wife and mother died November 11, 1903. In his religious faith Mr. Youngs is a Spiritualist. Although he has not resided continuously in Branch county he has been a witness to its growth and devel-

opment for two-thirds of a century, nor has he taken an unimportant part in advancing public measures. He is thoroughly informed concerning what has been accomplished here from pioneer time to the present and events which are to many others matters of record or of history are familiar to him as a witness or as an active participant in what occurred and aided in moulding the public policy or shaping the destiny of the county.

EDWARD ROLAND ROOT.

Fortunate is the man who has back of him a history honorable and distinguished, and happy is he if his lines of life have been cast in harmony therewith. Mr. Root in the paternal line is descended from an honored pioneer family of Michigan, and in the maternal line traces his ancestry back to John Alden, who came to America on the Mayflower. Edward Roland Root was born in the city of Coldwater, Michigan, April 17, 1851, the second son of Roland and Irene (Alden) Root. His father was born in Skaneateles, New York, December 26, 1813, and died at his home in Coldwater, August 11, 1885. He was the fourth in order of birth in a family of eight children, whose parents were Edward and Sally (Cole) Root. He was reared upon the home farm and acquired a good common school education, remaining with his parents until he attained his majority. He then removed to Huron county, Ohio, and was engaged in teaching school at Norwalk. While in that city he also clerked in a dry goods store and was married there to Miss Harriet Chapin, a native of Canandaigua, New York, but at that time a resident of Norwalk. In 1835 he came to Michigan and was a prominent factor in the early history of Branch county. At the time of his arrival he was but twenty-two years of age. Coldwater was scarcely more than a village, but he identified his interests with the new town, giving his attention to general merchandising. As the years passed he was known as a successful merchant, miller and farmer. A man of fine intelligence and scholarly tastes, he did much to advance the educational progress of Coldwater, and it was ever his aim, no matter how great the inconvenience to himself, to secure for his children the best education possible. He took a deep and helpful interest in all public measures for the general good and he served as a member of the Michigan legislature, as a magistrate and in other positions of honor and trust. Following the outbreak of the Civil war Roland Root literally "left the plow in the furrow" and enlisted, in April, 1861, in defense of the Union cause, becoming a member of Company A, First Regiment of Michigan Artillery, Loomis' Battery. He was promoted from successive ranks to that of first lieutenant and was in active service in West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama.

In 1841 was consummated the second marriage of Roland Root, at which time Miss Irene Alden became his wife. She has long survived him and is now (1905) eighty-three years of age, her home being in Coldwater. They became the parents of the following-named: Aurella Melita; Martha Matilda; Harriet Chapin; Edward, who died in infancy; Edward Roland; Flora; Jean Fisk; Fred Hamilton; and Elizabeth Jessie.

Mrs. Roland Root was born at Ashville, New York, June 26, 1822, and

with her parents removed to Coldwater, Michigan, in 1834. She traces her ancestry in direct line back to John Alden, the progenitor of the family in America, who was born in England in 1599, and as a member of the Plymouth colony crossed the Atlantic on the Mayflower in the year 1620. The romantic epoch of his history has been immortalized in Longfellow's poem of the "Courtship of Miles Standish." Tracing the line down through to his second son, Joseph Alden; to his second son, Deacon Joseph Alden; his second son, Eleazer Alden of Ridgewater, we come to David Alden, who was the fourth son of Eleazer Alden, and a native of Ashfield, Massachusetts. He was the great-grandfather of Mrs. Root and the father of Isaac Alden, who was likewise a native of Ashfield. Dr. Hiram Alden, the sixth son of Isaac Alden, was born in Ashfield, Massachusetts, October 28, 1792, and removed from New York to Coldwater, Michigan, in 1834. He was a well educated man, who rose to prominence and for three years, 1835-6-7, represented his district in the state legislature, acting as speaker of the house during his last term. The projected interests in the Michigan Central Railway then enlisted his services and it was while engaged as commissioner for that organization that he contracted the fever that terminated his life at Deroit on the 26th of November, 1838. He had married Melita Huntley, and of their eleven children Irene (Alden) Root was the fourth. She was about twelve years of age when she accompanied her parents to Coldwater and from the days when this district was an almost unbroken wilderness down to the present she has made Coldwater her home. During this period she has witnessed its transformation from a small hamlet with less than one hundred inhabitants to a beautiful little city of nearly seven thousand population. She has long been a member of the Baptist church and a consistent Christian in word and deed. Although beloved and revered by successive generations of friends and neighbors her rarest qualities are best known to the inner circle of her own home.

Thus we observe that Edward Roland Root comes of a noble and worthy ancestry and of a parentage that gave him an excellent heritage. He was educated in the public schools of Coldwater until he reached the age of fourteen years, when he received from the congressman of his district an appointment to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis. He successfully passed the various examinations and was mustered into the United States navy as a midshipman on the 25th of September, 1865. He remained at the academy for two years, when failing health caused him to resign an appointment, a much desired and most congenial career. He returned home in June, 1867, and engaged in outdoor pursuits until his health was restored. In April, 1868, he was appointed delivery clerk in the Coldwater postoffice, was advanced to assistant postmaster in July, 1870, and served in that capacity until February, 1882, when he was commissioned postmaster by President Arthur, holding the office for four years or until April, 1886, so that his connection with the Coldwater postoffice covered a period of eighteen consecutive years. He was later engaged in merchandising in this city for a short period and afterward acted as secretary of the Coldwater Gas Light Company. For ten years, beginning in 1889, he was engaged in the manufacture of cigar

boxes and in 1900 he accepted the position of secretary of the Wolverine Portland Cement Company, which is his present business relation.

Mr. Root has always taken an active part in public affairs and has served on the Water Works and Electric Light Board, while for seven years he was president of the Board. In 1871 he was largely instrumental in organizing the Coldwater Light Guard Company, and was a member thereafter for many years.

On the 24th of September, 1874, Mr. Root was married to Miss Alice Southworth, a native of Coldwater and unto them have been born three children, Edith Irene, Rolene Altai, and Flora Elizabeth. The family are communicants of the Episcopal church, of which Mr. Root is serving as vestryman and as treasurer of the vestry. He has always been a Republican in politics and has exerted a wide influence in political affairs. His position of prominence in regard to the public interests of his native city is well merited because of his devotion to the general good and his practical and untiring efforts in behalf of the municipality and the county.

THOMAS JEFFERSON TURNER, M. D.

Dr. Thomas Jefferson Turner was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 21, 1829, and died at Mackinac Island, August 20, 1901. In 1889 he married Flora, the fourth daughter of Roland and Irene (Alden) Root. Dr. Turner was a man of profound intelligence and rare attainments, a scholar of marked erudition and a physician and surgeon of distinction. He was a recognized authority on matters pertaining to hygiene and sanitation. He was graduated from the Philadelphia high schools with the class of 1848, and he held a diploma of the Philadelphia Medical College, from which he was graduated with the degree of M. D. in 1851. He also received the degrees of philosophy and of master of arts from the same institution in 1853, was made a fellow of the Academy of Natural Science at Philadelphia in 1854 and a member of the American Public Health Association and a companion of the Naval Order of the United States Naval Commandery. He entered the United States navy as an assistant surgeon December 16, 1853, and was thereafter prominently identified therewith as surgeon and medical director until 1891, when he retired. During the Civil war he was fleet surgeon with Farragut at the battle of Mobile Bay. As surgeon and officer of the navy he visited nearly every country of the world. Following his retirement from the service he made Coldwater his home, where he was, for some six years, health officer of the city, and there he continued an energetic worker in behalf of local and state health measures, rendering his fellowmen valuable service in this regard.

GEORGE A. RUSSELL.

George A. Russell, taking up his abode in Coldwater in 1902, removed from the farm which he had helped to clear and improve in pioneer days and which had been his home for fifty-five years. He was born in the town of York in Livingston county, New York, May 12, 1836, his parents being George and Caroline (Faxon) Russell, the former a native of New Hamp-

shire and the latter of Massachusetts. The father was born of a family of nine children and in early life removed to New York, where he formed the acquaintance of Miss Faxon, whom he later married. In the fall of 1837 they came to Michigan, settling in Lenawec county, where they lived for a little more than six years, when in May, 1844, they came to Branch county, their son, George A., being at that time about eight years old, taking up their abode in Girard township after clearing and improving the farm. He was a cooper by trade but devoted much of his life to agricultural pursuits and spent his remaining days in Branch county, where he died at the age of seventy-seven years. His wife survived him and departed this life at the age of eighty-two years. They were the parents of seven children: Miranda E., deceased; George A.; Adaline S.; Benton T. and Mary, both deceased; Lewis C., a resident of Oregon; and Caroline J.

George A. Russell grew to manhood on the old homestead farm, to which he came with his parents when a young lad. As his age and strength permitted he assisted in the arduous task of clearing and cultivating the fields and he lived upon this farm for fifty-five years. In the early days he shared in the hardships and privations usual in a pioneer community, his education being acquired in an old log schoolhouse. He also spent one winter as a student in the schools of Coldwater and one winter in the schools of Girard. His education was largely acquired through the work of field and meadow and he gained a practical experience of what in later years enabled him to carefully conduct his farm and make it a valuable property. On the 6th of August, 1862, however, he put aside all personal considerations and enlisted as a private of Company C, Nineteenth Michigan Infantry, for a term of three years or until the close of the war. He carried a gun and knapsack for eighteen months with the rank of corporal and then became sergeant major. He acted in the latter capacity for about six months, when he was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant and was in active command of Company D, Nineteenth Michigan Infantry, from the time the troops were at Atlanta until they had marched to the sea under command of Sherman. He was also with that company until they had proceeded about fifty miles into the Carolinas, after which he was detached to act as adjutant. On the 8th of May, 1865, he was commissioned captain of Company F, Nineteenth Michigan Infantry, and as such was mustered out June 26, 1865. He participated in many important engagements and in March, 1863, when near Franklin, Tennessee, was captured and taken to Libby Prison, where he remained thirty days, when he was paroled. He then returned to Camp Chase, Ohio, and was soon ordered to the front, making his way to Nashville. He participated in the battle of Resaca, Georgia, May 15, 1864, was at Cassville, Georgia, May 19, 1864, and took part in the battles of Dallas, Golgotha, Culp Farm, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, the siege of Atlanta, the siege of Savannah and the battles of Averysboro and Bentonville, North Carolina. He is now a member of Butterworth Post No. 109, G. A. R., and has been active in military affairs in connection with this organization. His regiment never marched a mile that he was not on duty nor fought in a battle in which he was not also engaged. He made a splendid war record, notable for his bravery and loyalty,

and his meritorious conduct won him promotion from the ranks to a captaincy.

Following the close of hostilities Captain Russell resumed farming and was actively engaged in the tilling of the soil and the care of crops and stock until 1902, when, feeling that he had merited a rest from further labor, he retired with a valuable competence to Coldwater, selling the farm which he had occupied for fifty-five years.

In 1872 Captain Russell was married to Miss Isadore Brown, who died seven years later. In 1883 he wedded Arminda Day, who was born in Butler township, Branch county, and is a daughter of Elisha and Roxie (Wonsey) Day. Her grandfather, Chauncey Day, was a soldier of the war of 1812 and he and his son Elisha became pioneer settlers of Branch county, Michigan, removing from New York to this state.

Captain Russell voted for Stephen A. Douglas, but has since been an advocate of Republican principles, unfaltering in his allegiance to the party. He has served as justice of the peace for thirty years, which position he is now filling, and his decisions have ever been characterized by impartiality and fairness. Both he and his wife are Methodists in religious faith, although they are not identified with the church organization. As an honored veteran of the Civil war and a worthy pioneer settler he is deserving of mention in the history of Branch county.

IRVING McNALL.

Descended from good old Scotch ancestry, the McNalls can trace their lineage back for hundreds of years in Scotland until about 1760, when members of the family came to America, settling in the New England colonies. Several of the family were participants in the Revolutionary war, fighting on the side of the colonists, and the paternal great-grandfather of our subject was a general in the American army at this time, his name being James McNall. One of his sons, Alexander McNall, paternal grandfather of our subject, was born in 1788 in Connecticut, was also in the war of 1812, and later came to the then new state of Michigan, in 1845, stopping first at Coldwater and then coming into Ovid township, this county, where he received from the government one hundred and sixty acres of land in recognition of his war service. He cleared this farm and otherwise improved it and passed the remainder of his life here.

One of his sons, Hiram McNall, was born in Avon, Livingstone county, New York, July 13, 1809, grew to manhood in the Empire state, where he was married to Harriet Barnes, a native of the Mohawk Valley, New York, where she was born December 13, 1821, she being the daughter of Samuel and Miranda Barnes. After their marriage Hiram and Harriet McNall lived for a short time at Henrietta, Monroe county, New York, and then, imbued with the idea that there were greater possibilities in the middle west they packed their personal belongings into a one-horse wagon, and in the fall of 1842 arrived in Clinton county, Michigan, where Mr. McNall secured one hundred and sixty acres of new land. Living here until the following spring,

they were then attracted to Branch county, and came to the township of Kinderhook, where they purchased land on section eleven and made a home here. Here they passed the remainder of their days, Mr. McNall dying October 28, 1870, and Mrs. McNall passing away in 1851. They were highly esteemed people, a power for good in the community where they passed so many years. Mr. McNall added to his first purchase of land here, and at the time of his death was the possessor of several hundred acres of fine farming land. Hiram and Harriet McNall were the parents of three children, all of whom are living, they being: Celestia Sweetland of Missouri; Harriet Miller of California township; and Irving McNall, the subject of this review.

Irving McNall was born in the township of Kinderhook, Michigan, September 10, 1850, and his entire life has been passed here. He grew to maturity upon the home farm and early secured a good common school education. On April 28, 1872, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary L. Smith, a native of Defiance county, Ohio, where she was born November 14, 1854. Her parents were Alexander Smith and Harriet Messimore, both natives of Pennsylvania, who were married in Stark county, Ohio. Later they moved to Defiance county, Ohio, where Mr. Smith died May 1, 1874, and where Mrs. Smith still resides. They were the parents of ten children, seven of whom are still living, as follows: Alwilda Scott of Elkhart county, Indiana; Washington Smith of Hicksville, Ohio, who wedded Ellen Harmon; Mary Smith McNall, wife of our subject; Harriet Miller of Chicago; Russell Smith of Reading, Michigan; and Viola and Marvin Smith of Chicago. The three children who have died were Angeline Shaw, Isabel Smith and Celestia Smith. The following family history of Mrs. McNall is taken from an old family Bible, which is one hundred and seven years old:

Alexander Smith, born in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, was a son of Jacob and Catherine (Zembower) Smith, whose other children were Elmer, Milton, Benton, Susan, Rebecca, Sarah, Clarinda, Mary Jane and Eliza Harriet. Harriet Messimore, mother of Mrs. McNall, was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, a daughter of George and Margaret (Thomas) Messimore, the former born in Maryland, near old Baltimore, November 27, 1800, and his mother's maiden name was Catherine Tiractor. Margaret Thomas was a daughter of Michael and Barbry (Shedron) Thomas, the latter of whom died at the age of eighty-five years. Margaret Thomas was born in Pennsylvania November 11, 1800, and died March 26, 1880, aged seventy-nine years, four months and fifteen days. When quite young she emigrated with her parents to eastern Ohio, and was there married April 24, 1823, to George Messimore. They moved to Indiana in 1861, and became the parents of six children, three sons and three daughters, Eliza, Eli, Harriet, Washington, Henry and Mary Ann, all of whom are living. They also had twenty-three grandchildren, three of whom are deceased, and thirty-one great-grandchildren, twenty-six of whom are living, thus making a living generation of fifty-two. Mrs. Margaret Messimore was a member of the German Baptist church for about fifty-five years.

After attaining manhood and soon after marriage Irving McNall's first thought was to provide a home for his family, and in 1872 he came into pos-

session of the old McNall homestead on section eleven, Kinderhook township, where he lived for thirteen years, when in 1885 he purchased his present farm on section one in the same township, where he continues to reside. Here he has devoted considerable time and labor to its improvement, clearing part of it himself. Although always engaged in farming, Mr. McNall has also during the greater share of his life been identified with other enterprises, having been in the meat and poultry business for over twenty years. He is a man of wide reading and keen intelligence, is thoroughly posted on current topics and takes a deep interest in his town and county. Politically he was formerly a Republican, although of late years voting the Democratic ticket. He has served his school district as director for many years.

The union of Mr. and Mrs. Irving McNall has been blessed with the birth of thirteen children, all of whom are living, as follows: Marvin L. married Carrie Mingus, and they live in Chicago. Florence married Albert Strong; they have one daughter, Phyllis, and they live in this township. James G. married Delcie Wheeler; their home is in Steuben county, Indiana, and they have one son, Harold. Jessie married Pardon Ogden, and they have two children, Pearl and Edna, and they live in Kinderhook. Gertrude married Daniel Shiery, their home being in Algansee township. Charles, whose wife, Floy Greek, is dead, married again to Miss Zulah Williams of Findlay, Ohio, and is now preaching in Ohio. Willie married Annie Wood; they have one son, Marvin, and their home is in Denver, Colorado. The remaining six children of Mr. and Mrs. McNall, who live at home with their parents, are Carl J., Ralph D., Fordest H., Ora A., Calvin B. and Blanche G.

Mr. and Mrs. McNall are still in their prime, and in spite of the rearing of this large family of children they retain their youthful spirits and enjoy life to the utmost. Both are members of the Liberal United Brethren church, and they stand high in the esteem of the people of this portion of the county. They have in their possession a little book, "The History of the Holy Bible," which was published in 1797, two years before General Washington died. This is a valuable souvenir in the McNall family.

JOHN S. EVANS.

John S. Evans, editor and manager of the *Sun* and the *Star* of Coldwater, Michigan, was born March 4, 1857, upon a farm in Floyd county, Indiana. Soon afterward his parents removed to a farm near Lawrence, Kansas, where they lived until after Quantrell and his band sacked and burned the town. The family then made an overland trip in a prairie schooner to Michigan, where again they took up their abode upon a farm and John S. Evans became an active factor in clearing the land of the stumps and preparing the eighty acre tract for the plow. There he continued in farm work until nineteen years of age, when the place was sold. Ambitious for an education, he began work by the month as a farm hand to earn the funds necessary to meet the expenses of a course in the Coldwater high school. By working during vacations, teaching winters, boarding himself in town, or walking three miles and doing chores for his board he succeeded in completing the high school course.

He afterward operated a rented farm for a year and thus was enabled with the money thereby earned to pursue a short literary course in the state university, followed by the law course, which he completed by graduation, and was admitted to the bar in the spring of 1883.

Mr. Evans entered at once upon the practice of law in Coldwater, and continued until 1897. He was ever a great student of political economy and public problems, early taking his stand on the reform side of the money question, trusts, transportation and temperance questions. In 1896 he engineered a combination of four minority reform party organizations in his congressional district—the strongest Republican district in the state—and with such success that a Prohibitionist was elected to Congress. Mr. Evans was chosen his private secretary and spent two years in Washington during the stirring times of the Dingley bill agitation and of the Spanish-American war. Returning to Coldwater in 1899 he resumed his law practice. In July, 1892, he became one of the original stockholders and legal adviser for the Star Publishing Company, organized in Coldwater. This company established the *Star* as a temperance newspaper and an editor was placed in command, who conducted the paper until July, 1899, when Mr. Evans found himself in such a situation as to make it necessary that he take an assignment of the stock himself, which he did and assumed control of the paper. He knew absolutely nothing about the publishing or printing business, but had had some experience in writing free editorials and occasional articles for the newspapers and magazines. The determination and natural ability which he brought to his work enabled him to make a success of the hitherto unfamiliar venture. In June, 1903, he bought the plant of the Coldwater *Sun,* which had been established in 1881, the only Democratic paper in the county, and until recently continued to issue the two weekly papers. He has now joined the two, however, publishing semi-weekly, issuing the *Star* on Monday and the *Sun* on Thursday. The paper as a business venture has proved a success and has a large circulation and is an excellent advertising medium. He has thoroughly equipped the offices with modern accessories of the printing art and has made his paper a popular representative of journalism in this part of the state. An excellent job printing department is conducted and in his work Mr. Evans is assisted by his wife and four children, who are all stockholders in the enterprise. He admits to the columns of his papers no objectionable advertising at any price.

Aside from his journalistic interests Mr. Evans gives supervision to a fine farm of eighty acres and he owns a summer cottage on the lake. A member of the Methodist church, he takes an active part in its work and in the work of the Sunday school as well, in which he conducts a large Bible class.

HENRY V. WHITEHEAD.

Henry V. Whitehead, of Coldwater, was born in the town of Bradford, Steuben county, New York, in the locality known as Bradford's Hollow. His natal day was October 2, 1844, and his parents were Henry and Sallie (Carr) Whitehead. The father was born in Vermont and represented an old New

England family, while the mother was a native of the Empire state. In the family were four children, two sons and two daughters, but only two are now living. About 1846 Henry Whitehead, Sr., removed with his family to Hillsdale county, Michigan, settling in Allen, where he conducted a hotel for a few years, and then turned his attention to merchandising, which he followed through a long period. In 1865 he removed to Quincy, where he conducted a dry-goods store until his death in 1869, when he was sixty-three years of age. He was twice married, his first wife dying soon after their arrival in Michigan. For his second wife he chose Miss Eliza Robinson and they became the parents of three sons and two daughters. Mrs. Eliza Whitehead departed this life in 1865.

Henry V. Whitehead was reared in Allen, Michigan, and acquired his education in the public schools there. He was seventeen years of age when he enlisted in the Civil war, responding to President Lincoln's first call for troops to aid in the defense of the Union. He joined the boys in blue of Company B, 11th Michigan Infantry, being mustered in as a private on the 24th of August, 1861. He served with loyalty and valor for three years and was mustered out on the 30th of September, 1864. He participated in the battles of Stone River, Murfreesboro, Chickamauga and the siege of Atlanta, after which he was taken ill.

Following his return to the north Mr. Whitehead was in business with his father for a time, and the father being a widower took the younger brothers and sisters and removed to a farm in Hillsdale county, settling in the town of Litchfield. Following his father's death Mr. Whitehead went to the west and also spent some time in Illinois, after which he returned to Allen and was in the employ of Henry Shelp, proprietor of a hotel there, with whom he came to Coldwater and has since been a resident of this city. He has a wide acquaintance and his unfailing courtesy, geniality and deference for the opinions of others have made him popular. His political support is given the Republican party.

DAVID PITCHER.

Coldwater, attractive as a place of residence because of its business enterprise and the many advantages which it offers to its citizens, has become the home of many men who formerly connected with business affairs are now living retired in the enjoyment of the fruits of their earlier toil. Of this class Mr. Pitcher is a representative and in former years he was engaged in carpentering and farming. His birth occurred in Albany county, New York, about eighteen miles west of the city of Albany, March 14, 1822. His father, Jacob Pitcher, came to Michigan about 1845, locating in Batavia township, Branch county. He was a shoemaker and also a mason by trade and he died in the west when about seventy-four years of age. He had been one of the early settlers of this county, contributing to its pioneer development and aiding in laying broad and deep the foundation for its later prosperity and progress. He married Margaret Howe, who died in Branch county in 1861. Of their family of four sons and five daughters all reached mature years, but three of the daughters have now passed away. The sons, however, are all living.

David Pitcher, the second child and eldest son, was reared in Cayuga county, New York, and there attended school for about four months altogether. He is a self-educated as well as self-made man and through reading, experience and observation has greatly broadened his knowledge. In early life he learned the carpenter's and joiner's trade, serving a three years' apprenticeship, and for a number of years thereafter he was identified with building operations.

In 1847 occurred the marriage of David Pitcher and Miss Melissa Ann Gilbert, who died in 1896. At the time of their marriage they located in the village of Port Burn, New York, and Mr. Pitcher erected a great many houses there. He had a wife and six children when in 1862 he put aside business cares and responded to his country's call for aid, enlisting as a member of Company F, Ninth New York Heavy Artillery. He served for three years and took part in a number of the most noted engagements of the war. He was slightly wounded at the battle of Cedar Creek, a ball striking his hip, but finding that he was not badly hurt he returned to his place in the ranks and again began fighting. He was detailed for carpentering and repair work because of his previous training in that direction. At the close of the war he received an honorable discharge in Washington and returned to his family in the east.

In 1868 Mr. Pitcher managed to save from his earnings the sum of five hundred dollars and with this he came to the west in 1869, settling in Batavia township, Branch county. He invested his capital in eighty acres of land and at once began the further development and improvement of his farm, which he continued to cultivate until 1881. In that year he retired from active business, taking up his abode in Coldwater, where he has since lived, enjoying a well earned rest.

Mr. and Mrs. Pitcher became the parents of seven children. Louis W., who was a soldier of the war of the rebellion, enlisting when only fifteen years of age, is now a prominent insurance man of Chicago. Frank, who was a telegraph operator, is deceased. Emily R. is the wife of J. Holmes and they reside with her father. Charles is living in Coldwater and Clara and David Augustus are also of this city.

In ante-bellum days David Pitcher was a staunch abolitionist, greatly opposed to the institution of slavery and when the Republican party was formed to prevent the further extension of slavery he joined its ranks and has since been one of its stalwart advocates, but has never sought or desired office. He has lived an earnest Christian life and is well versed in the Bible and at all times has been honorable and straightforward in his relations with his fellowmen. He belongs to Butterworth Post, G. A. R., and thus maintains pleasant relations with the comrades with whom he served upon the battlefields of the south. He has never been afraid of work and his unflagging industry and perseverance were the strong and salient elements in his success. He is now eighty-three years of age—a venerable and respected citizen of Coldwater. He can look back over the past without regret, for his life history contains many traits of character worthy of admiration and of emulation.

SAMUEL FISK.

Samuel Fisk, now living a retired life in Coldwater, was born in Newark, Wayne county, New York, October 13, 1834. His parents, L. and Adelia (Wells) Fisk, were also natives of the Empire state, in which they spent their lives, the father following the occupation of farming in order to provide for his family, of wife and nine children—six sons and three daughters.

Samuel Fisk was reared to the occupation of farming, working in the fields through the summer months, while in the winter seasons he attended the district schools, acquiring a good practical education. He came to the west in 1867, following his brother, George W. Fisk, who recently died in Branch county, Michigan. Here Samuel Fisk settled, taking up his abode south of Coldwater, and the brothers carried on agricultural pursuits together for twenty years, meeting with very desirable success. Samuel Fisk was afterward alone in his farming operations for a brief period and in 1897 he removed to Coldwater, where he retired from active business life.

In this county, in 1874, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Fisk and Miss Clara S. Conover, who was born in Huron county, Ohio. They have two children, Albert Jerome and Carlottie B., the former a farmer of Branch county. In his political views Mr. Fisk is a Republican and for eight years he served as supervisor of Coldwater township, proving efficient and capable in that office. He was influential in community affairs on the side of improvement and progress and has taken a just pride in what has been accomplished in Branch county during the long years of his residence here. Active and honorable in all business transactions, he won a competence that now enables him to live retired and that classes him with the substantial residents of Coldwater.

BENJAMIN R. FERGUSON, D.D.S.

Dr. Benjamin R. Ferguson, who, in the practice of dentistry in Coldwater, has built up a lucrative business that is indicative of his excellent workmanship and professional skill, was born in Ovid township, Branch county, May 10, 1854. His paternal great-grandfather, Israel Ferguson, was a native of Putnam county, New York, and was of Scotch lineage. His son, Abraham Ferguson, removed from the Empire state to Michigan, in 1835, and in 1867 became a resident of Coldwater, where he died in 1874 at the advanced age of eighty-one years. He was a good man, who lived an upright and honorable life in consistent harmony with his profession as a member of the Baptist church. His early political support was given to the Whig party and later he became a Republican. He married Sarah Roberts, whose birth occurred in Columbia county, New York, and she was of Welsh descent. She lived to be eighty years of age and was a life-long and consistent member of the Baptist church. In the family of Israel and Sarah (Roberts) Ferguson were ten children, of whom two died in infancy. Of the others five sons and three daughters are yet living, the eldest being eighty-seven years of age, while the youngest is more than sixty-eight years of age and all are married and have reared families.

Dr. Ferguson's father was born in the state of New York and is now one of the oldest citizens of Branch county, where he has lived for many years. He came here with his parents in pioneer times and has since been an interested witness of the development and growth of this section of Michigan.

Benjamin R. Ferguson was reared and educated in Branch county, spending his boyhood days upon the home farm. His early mental training was received in the district schools and when eighteen years of age he entered the schools of Coldwater. Later he took up the study of dentistry in this city and subsequently entered upon practice in Olivet, Michigan, but since 1881 has conducted an office in Coldwater. Success has attended his efforts, for he possesses the mechanical skill, theoretical knowledge and business ability without which no man is ever successful as a member of the dental fraternity.

In 1876 Dr. Ferguson was married to Miss Ella Walker and they now have a son and daughter, Glenn W. and Cora M. In his fraternal relations he is connected with the Knights of the Maccabees and the National Union and religiously with the Baptist church. Whatever he has accomplished and whatever success he enjoys is attributed entirely to his own efforts, for with no outside aid or influence in the beginning of his business career he prepared for his chosen calling and has steadily worked his way upward, depending entirely upon his capability for the building up of a practice.

JOHN SECOR.

John Secor is the owner of two hundred and thirty-eight acres of valuable land in Michigan and since 1900 has resided upon his present farm on Section 21, Bronson township. He was born in Bronson township, in 1856, and is a son of Benjamin K. and Louise M. (Young) Secor. The father was born in the Empire state and removed to Toledo, where he lived for a time. About 1852, however, he came to Branch county and settled in the village of Bronson, where he engaged in general merchandising with David F. Gates for several years. At the outbreak of the Civil war, however, his patriotic spirit was strongly aroused and he offered his services to the government, enlisting in Company G, Nineteenth Michigan Infantry. He was captured and died as a prisoner of war in Tennessee. He had previously purchased a small farm in Bronson township, southeast of the village. In the family are two sons, John and James.

John Secor was but a young lad at the time of his father's death. He was reared upon the farm and pursued his education in the district schools of the neighborhood. He continued upon the home farm until 1893, coming into possession of the property in 1890. He also extended its boundaries by the addition of thirty-four acres and transformed it into very rich and productive fields, adding all modern equipments and accessories. In 1893 he rented the Wallace Monroe farm north of town for seven years, living thereon until 1900 and during the same time he continued to cultivate his own farm of seventy-eight acres. In the latter year he purchased one hundred and eighteen acres on Section 21, Bronson township, known as the Latta farm,

to which he removed and on which he has since made his home. In 1903 he sold his original farm property and later purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in St. Joseph county, Michigan, so that his entire holdings comprise two hundred and thirty-eight acres at the present time. He carries on general farming and raises feed for his stock. Everything about his place is kept in good condition and he is one of the representative agriculturists of his community, his enterprise and perseverance proving the elements that have brought him success.

In 1877 Mr. Secor was united in marriage to Miss Alvira A. Johnson, a daughter of Morgan Johnson, of Bethel township. They have three children: Joseph Benjamin, who married Anna Gairn and lives at Three Rivers, St. Joseph county; Louisa A., the wife of Arthur Lindsey, of Litchfield; and John Morris, who is eight years of age. In politics Mr. Secor is a Republican and has been a member of the school board for four years, the cause of education finding in him a warm friend and one who does all in his power to promote the welfare of the schools. In his farming operations he has so directed his efforts that his work has been attended with a gratifying measure of prosperity.

AUGUSTUS A. CLEVELAND.

Augustus A. Cleveland, who since September, 1889, has resided upon his present farm in California township, was born in the neighboring state of Indiana, his birth having occurred in Elkhart county on the 13th of October, 1844. His father, Joseph Cleveland, who was the son of Harden and Betsy Mason Cleveland, was born in Lake county, Ohio, and in early life learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed in connection with farming, depending upon those two pursuits as a means of livelihood throughout the entire period of his mature years. He was united in marriage to Miss Harriet Seward, who was also a native of Lake county, Ohio, and was a daughter of Nathan Seward. Their marriage was celebrated in the Buckeye state and they became the parents of twelve children, of whom three died in infancy. Of the others Tracy, Mrs. Portia Brindle and Mrs. Lillian Noyes, are now deceased. Mrs. Laura Tupper is living in Cass county, Michigan. Mrs. Althea Sanborn makes her home in Kirtland, Ohio. Mrs. Frances VanDusen is living in Coldwater. Seward makes his home in Coldwater, and Mrs. Jennie Taylor is a resident of Batavia, this county. Both of the parents died in Batavia, where they were respected citizens. They had become residents of Branch county during the period of the Civil war and remained here until called to their final rest.

A. A. Cleveland spent his boyhood days in his father's home in Elkhart county, Indiana, where he lived until seventeen years of age. No longer able to content himself at home while the country was engaged in Civil war he enlisted from Elkhart on the 31st of December, 1861, entering the service the following day as a member of Company C, Ninth Indiana Infantry, with which he served for three years and nine months. Although but a young lad no veteran of twice his years displayed greater loyalty or valor upon the field of battle. The regiment was attached to the Army of the Cumberland

and he participated in many of the important engagements of the war leading up to the final victorious result. He was in the battles of Pittsburg Landing, Stone River, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Nashville and other battles and skirmishes of less importance. He was also on the Atlanta campaign under General Sherman and was wounded in front of Atlanta. During the last two years of the war he served as orderly sergeant and was honorably discharged in September, 1865, having for almost four years worn the blue uniform of the nation. Every duty assigned him in connection with his military service was faithfully performed and he returned home with a creditable record.

When hostilities ceased Mr. Cleveland came to Branch county, making his way to Batavia, where his parents had removed during his absence at the front. He lived there for ten years, working his father's farm, after which he removed to Bronson, where he remained for a short time. He next established his home in Algansee township in 1878 and there resided until September, 1889, when he removed to his present farm on Section 4, California township. Here he owns forty acres of productive land on which are good buildings. The place is neat and well improved and he carries on general farming, his labors bringing to him a good living. He has always devoted his attention to general agricultural pursuits and his work is at all times characterized by unfaltering diligence and by practical methods.

On the 24th of November, 1868, Mr. Cleveland was united in marriage to Mrs. Theresa Welch Sprague, who passed away in October, 1886. His second marriage on the 28th of June, 1888, was to Miss Dana Purdy, who was born in Ovid township, Branch county, July 24, 1861. The Purdys are one of the old families of this part of the state and the original American ancestors came from England to the new world. Joseph Purdy was born in Rutland, Vermont, March 1, 1767, and his wife, Sally Smith, who was born November 11, 1769, was probably a native of the same state. In early life they removed to Canada, settling near Montreal. At the beginning of the war of 1812, feeling that he would be pressed into English service against his native land, he returned to Vermont. During the second year of the war (being driven out by the Indians), with his family, he removed to Monroe, Ohio. They had eleven children, several of which came to Branch county in 1836. In later years the parents also established their home here, their last days being spent in Algansee township.

Horace Purdy, the eldest son of Joseph and Sally Purdy, and the paternal grandfather of Mrs. Cleveland, was born March 14, 1791, in Vermont, and was married to Sally Thompson, of the same state. A few years of their married life were spent in Canada, where their eldest child, Phoebe, was born. After their return to the United States the first authentic record we have of them is that they lived in Seneca county, Ohio, as early as 1818. From there they removed to Branch county in 1836. It was in Seneca county, Ohio, that Orange Purdy, father of Mrs. Cleveland, was born on the 7th of July, 1830. He married Miss Martha Parker, whose birth occurred in Hillsdale county, Michigan, July 18, 1841. She was the daughter of Abel and Climena (Pease)

Parker. Her mother was a native of the state of New York and her father of Connecticut, having been born in that state December 19, 1798. Abel Parker was the son of Silas Parker, who was born near Hartford, Connecticut, and removed from that place with his family, making his way to Oneida county, New York. He settled on Onondaga Pike, where he kept a tavern for many years and in the days when the spirit of anti-masonry ran high, because of the disappearance of Morgan, the Masons used to meet and hold meetings in his hotel. He was also a colonel in the war of 1812. The wedding of Orange Purdy and Martha Parker was celebrated in California township and they became the parents of three children: Fred Purdy, now living in Algansee; Orange J. K. Purdy, a resident of Montana; and Mrs. Dana Cleveland. The father, Orange Purdy, was a soldier of the Civil war, enlisting as a member of Company G, First Michigan Sharpshooters, known as Hall's Sharpshooters. He joined this command September 23, 1864, and was discharged on the 13th of June, 1865, for General Lee had surrendered and the war had been brought to a close. He at once returned to his home in Branch county but died soon afterward, passing away on the 19th of December, 1865, when only thirty-five years of age. He had followed farming in Algansee township prior to the war and was a respected and worthy citizen. His health was undermined by his military service and he practically gave his life in defense of his country. His widow long survived him and passed away on the 10th of July, 1897, when fifty-six years of age.

Mrs. Cleveland has long been prominent in the work of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, recognized as one of its active representatives for fifteen years. She has been secretary, treasurer and president of the county association and is now filling the position of county treasurer. She has also been a leader in the work of the district, which comprises the counties of Branch, Calhoun, Barry, Eaton and Jackson, acting as corresponding secretary for three years and at this writing, in 1906, is acting as district president. Her interest in behalf of the cause of temperance has been far reaching and beneficial and her labors in the organization have well demonstrated her fitness for leadership. She likewise belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church and has strong sympathy with every movement that tends to uplift and benefit humanity. Both Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland are well known in this county, for her entire life has been passed here and Mr. Cleveland has been a resident of the county since his return from the war. He joined the army as a boy, he returned a man, for there has been no movement in all the country's history that has so rapidly developed the manhood and strength of the young people of the nation as that chapter in her annals. In days of peace he has been equally loyal to his country and his co-operation can always be counted upon for the furtherance of measures that have for their basis the upbuilding and improvement of the county, state or nation.

LEVI SANDERS, M.D.

Dr. Levi Sanders, specialist on ruptures and chronic diseases, has headquarters both at Bronson and Petoskey, Michigan, and conducts a practice that extends over a wide territory.

Dr. Sanders was born in Gilead, Branch county, Michigan, December 21, 1840, son of Josiah and Mary (Miller) Sanders, natives of Ohio who moved from the Buckeye state up into Michigan in the year 1832 and settled on a farm in Branch county. Both are deceased. In the district schools of his native county Dr. Sanders received his early education, attending school during the winter months and in summer working on the farm. He continued farming for some years and then turned his attention to the study of medicine, matriculating at Bennett College, Chicago, and graduating there with the class of 1880. He began the practice of his profession at Jamestown, Indiana, where he remained six years, from there returning to his native county and locating at Bronson, where he has since maintained his home, dividing his time, however, for some years past between this place and Petoskey.

He married, in 1868, Miss Lodema Jameson, a daughter of James Jameson of Cayuga, New York, and they are the parents of six children: John, Lowell, Emery, Irving, Milton J. and Lola A., wife of Charles W. Clark of Sturgis, Michigan.

During his residence in Bronson Dr. Sanders has shown himself to be a public-spirited citizen in the best sense of that term. He served as a member of the village council and for six years was president of the school board. He has membership in Mystic Lodge, A. F. & A. M., is identified with the A. O. U. W., and politically is a Republican.

The Publishers, in acknowledging their indebtedness to the work of Rev. Collin, whose scholarly efforts and unabating interest in every department of the undertaking insure to the public the faithfulness of the endeavor and the value of the volume as a history of the county, take this opportunity in the closing pages of the volume to give a brief sketch of the life of the author and editor.

Like many of his fellow citizens, of the present generation as well as of the pioneer past, Rev. Collin is a native of New York state. Born in Benton township, Yates county, July 26, 1843, he was the first child of Henry Clark and Maria Louise (Park) Collin. He grew up on his father's farm and became accustomed to its duties, so that he is not without personal appreciation of the toils through which the early agriculturists of Branch county passed in transforming it into the beautiful region it now is. From the district school of his neighborhood he entered Penn Yan Academy, where he prepared for entrance at Genesee College, at Lima, in the fall of 1861. In the middle of his college career he transferred to Yale College, where he was graduated a Bachelor of Arts in July, 1865, and later received the A. M. degree. That the traditions and inclinations of the Collin family toward higher education were up to the highest New England standards is shown by the fact that for twenty years Yale College had one or more of the Collin boys within her classic walls as a student.

From September, 1865, to July, 1866, Mr. Collin taught in a private

school, "Immanuel Hall," in Chicago, belonging to his uncle, Rev. Roswell Park, D.D., founder and first vice president of Racine College, Wis. The three following years he pursued the theological course in Union Theological Seminary of New York City, graduating there in June, 1869. His clerical career began with license to preach by the fourth presbytery of New York, April 12, 1869. He preached in the Congregational church of Seymour, Connecticut, from July, 1869, to July, 1870, being ordained by a Congregational council in that place, November 25, 1869. In May, 1871, he went abroad, studying German three months near Hanover, and in October, 1871, entered the University of Berlin, where he studied theology, and in the following year in the University of Leipsic. After traveling in Ireland, Scotland, England, Germany, Austria, Italy and Switzerland, he returned to America in September, 1872, and in June of the next year entered on his duties as pastor of the Congregational church at Oxford, Chenango county, New York. In October, 1878, he was called from this position to the pastorate of the Presbyterian church of Coldwater, where his active service continued for nearly twenty-seven years, from December, 1878, to March 31, 1905. In the following May he entered upon his duties as editor of this volume. His enthusiasm in all literary matters and especially in the local history of his county, and his ranking scholarship, were the qualities that caused his selection to this position. His interest in the work has never flagged, and is perhaps best shown by the fact that he intends to continue the collation of facts and the preservation of matters of historical value in Branch county, supplying the incentive and inspiration which are always necessary to preserve the immediate past from total oblivion.



3 9343 01081253 4

